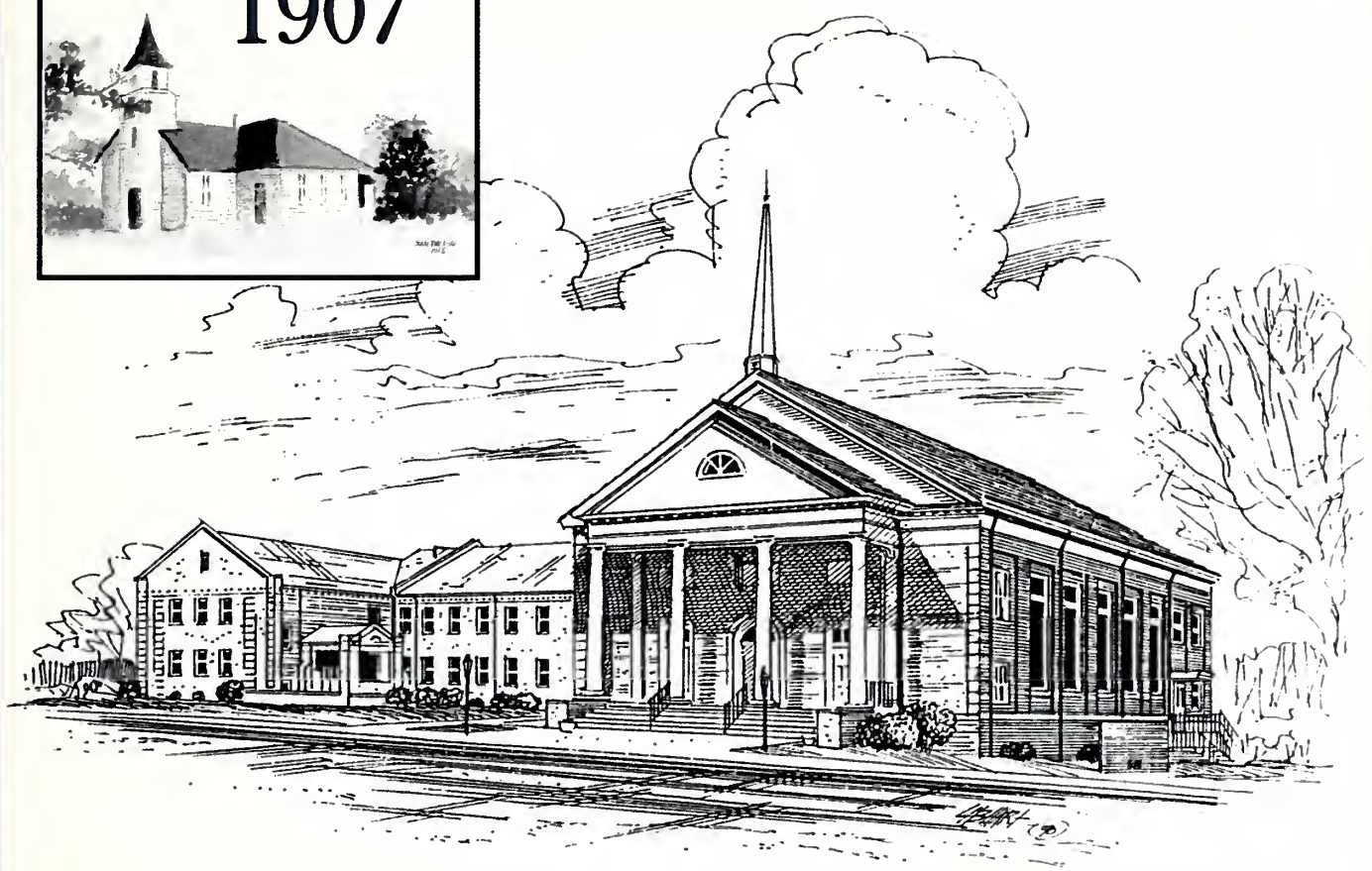
West Hickory Baptist Church

Hickory, North Carolina



2007

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Words from the Pastor...

When West Hickory Baptist Church was founded in 1907, the people of the church were about as far removed from the Civil War as we are from the events of the 1960's - like the Kennedy assassination and the moon landing. This gives me perspective about how long ago our church was founded. Things like automobiles and airplanes were just being developed and marketed. People like Einstein and Picasso were in the midst of their careers of discovery and creativity in 1907. Among those born in 1907 were two: Katharine Hepburn and John Wayne, who would go on to become great actors in the yet-to-be motion picture industry. Four dollars and sixty-two cents in 1907 is the equivalent of $100 in 2007. So much has changed. The lifestyles of the founders of our church were so different from our lives today.

The common thread that has bound our church together through the last one hundred years is the faithfulness of God. Hebrews 13:8 tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." In the midst of sweeping change, God has not changed. He still loves us. He offers us hope through the cross. He calls us to fellowship with Him and with one another. He gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3,4). God, who inspired and enabled the founders of our church for their work 100 years ago, will also inspire and enable us for a new century of loving Him and loving people. In fact, that is our Church Purpose, as adopted in 2007: "Loving God, loving one another, serving the world."

This 100th year anniversary book is a window to the past. The familiar faces of faithful members who are now with the Lord grace the pages of this book. The story of the first one hundred years of West Hickory Baptist Church is told in these pages. I hope you find joy and inspiration in them. The best tribute we can offer to those who have gone before us is to live God-centered, Christ-exalting lives of faith in this generation.

Special thanks is due the 100th Anniversary Committee. This group worked tirelessly for months to make our 100th Anniversary memorable. Their names are listed below.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Scott Fraay

Pastor Scott Fraay

100th Anniversary Committee

Don Smith, Chairman, Judy Burns, Terence Cansler, Brian Dellinger, Doug Estes, Amy Freeman, Nancy Hollar, Adam Huckabee, Nancy Isenhour, Harold Lail, John Link, Cindy Starnes, and Sandy Knuckles (ex-officio)

The committee wishes to note that there may be some information in this booklet which is incomplete or questionable. Misspellings, lost records, and illegible handwriting were often encountered in doing the research. They would also like to thank artist Jan Jackson for her rendition of the original white chapel built in 1900 (as seen on the cover), with graphic artwork by Andy Rhoney and Nancy Isenhour.

EARLY BAPTIST HISTORY

As West Hickory Baptist Church celebrates its Centennial year in 2007, we would be remiss if we didn't relate a brief history of the Baptist faith in our area and of our mother church, First Baptist, Hickory. The following is taken from a June 6, 1970 article in the *Hickory Daily Record* titled "The First Baptist Church of Hickory was formed in 1870."

According to *The Baptists for 100 Years in Lincoln, Catawba and Gaston Counties, North Carolina* by Major W. A. Graham, printed in 1901 in Lincolnton, circuit riders served the first Baptists in Hickory. The Hickory Baptists were first affiliated with the Charleston Broad River Association which organized the Catawba River Association on Nov. 16, 1827, at Olivet Baptist Church in Eastern Catawba County. Major Graham reported that the Hickory Baptists organized with the aid of Elder J. K. Howell. Members were C. B. Champion, Robert T. Champion, Andrew L. Ramseur, David H. Ramseur, A. J. Coo, Wilson Abernethy, Vienna Miller, Temperance Champion, Elmina Ramseur, Amanda Abernethy and Phronie Barger. Oddly, it was a Yankee who came to the aid of the early Baptists in Hickory. This interesting note is related to a letter to Major Graham on July 10, 1900, by Elder Howell, who told of his early experiences in the Hickory area in 1870:

"When I went to Western North Carolina, Bethel, Providence, Thessalonica and Olivet had no pastor. Statesville, Catawba, Newton, Hickory and Lincolnton had no Baptist preaching. There was no church of any denomination at Hickory. All had preaching in a rough house built for all.

"I preached one Sunday each month in this house till we got a house of our own. I hired men by the day to get money to pay them. I was sometimes so tired and worn out that I would go to sleep riding along the road. One time my way seemed hedged up. Just then Brother E. Allison told me a man named J. S. Guardner of Brooklyn, N.Y. passed Hickory on the train, and while the train stopped, he remarked: 'you have a nice, clean looking town. If you ever want to build a Baptist church here, write me; it might be of interest to you.'

"I wrote to Mr. Guardner, stating our circumstance and asked him to help us. He replied and told me that the great panic in New York had greatly changed his conditions, yet he would send me a check for $50 then, and soon another for $50. This filled me with hope and I said: 'If the Lord moved a man in Brooklyn to thus help us, He means for the Baptists of North Carolina to finish this house.' So I started anew and kept on till it was finished. I often say: 'J.S. Guardner built Hickory Church.'"

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations."
Deuteronomy 32:7

Feb 24-1907 The Church Was called in Conference and the following List of members Were on their own request dismissed from us for the purpose of Organizing a Baptist Church in West Hickory At the West Hickory Baptist Mission at Which place Sunday School & other Services has been held for 12 or 13 years by some of the brethern and the Pastor of this Church
Brother C. M. Robinson Was put on the field as a Missionary and commenced Work about Jany 1st 1907

Brethern	Sisters	Sisters
Bro Wiley, Jones	Mrs L. C. Jones	Miss Sadie, Maynard
" E. R. Burns	Miss Pearl, Jones	Mrs L. C. Maynard
" T. S. Miller	" Claudie, Jones	" Etta, Raby
" A. D. Isenhour	Mrs Minnie, McKenzie	
" J. M. Maynard	" Rucy Burns	
" A. G. Maynard	" M. A. Triplet	
	" M. A. Pierce	
	" J. C. Miller	
	" A. V. Isenhour	
	" M. J. Maynard	

(W F Jones - C Clerk) (Dr W R Gwaltney Mod)

Dr. William R. Gwaltney

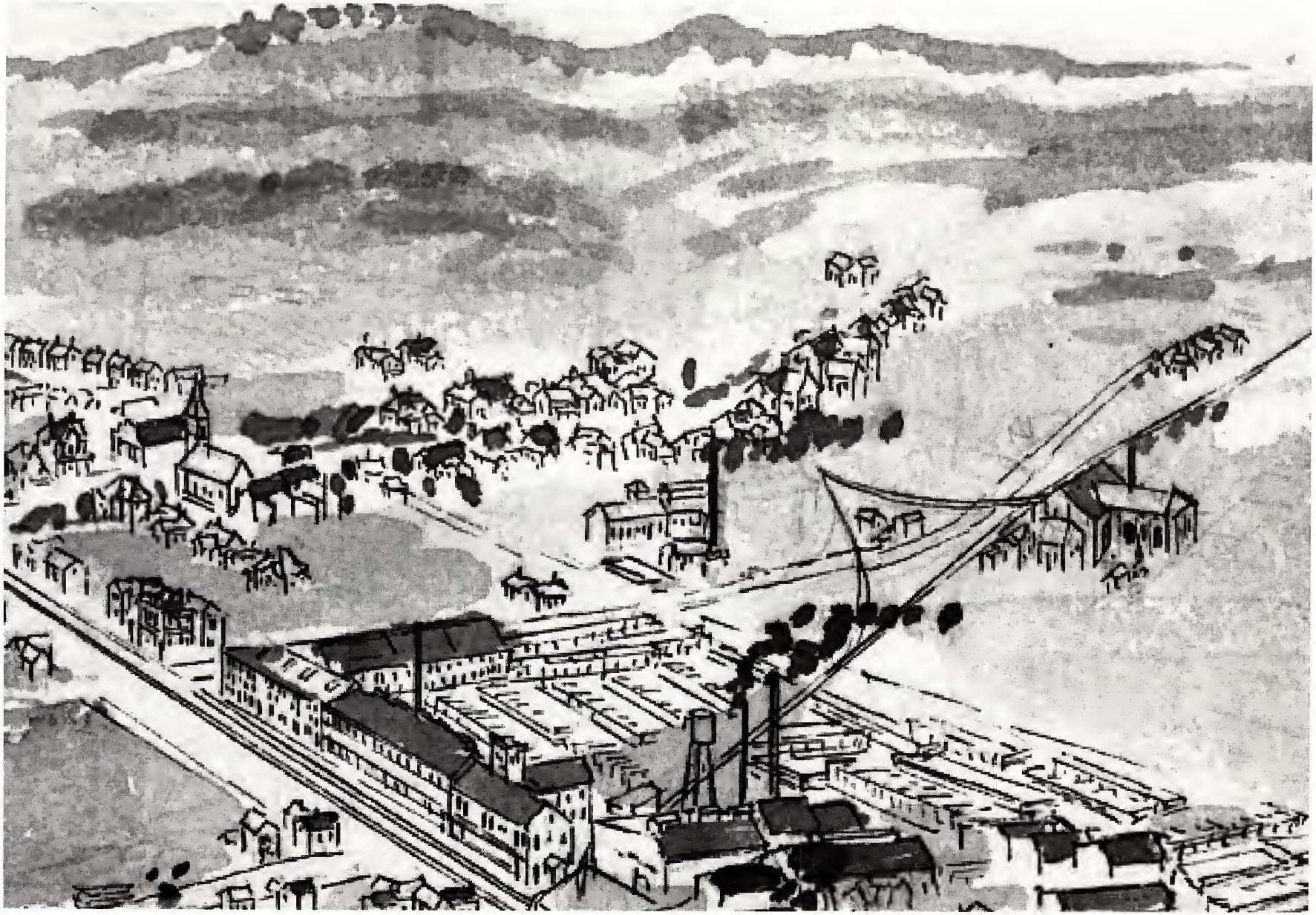
HISTORY OF WEST HICKORY BAPTIST CHURCH

West Hickory Baptist church traces its origin to a mission started by First Baptist Church of Hickory in 1894 under the leadership of Rev. C. S. Cashwell and later, Dr. W. R. Gwaltney. Services were held in various homes initially, and at one time, in a shoe shop, until 1895 when a house was rented. A Sunday School was organized; weekly prayer meetings and a regular monthly Sunday afternoon preaching began. FBC, led by Dr. Gwaltney, bought a lot at the corner of Burke and Caldwell Streets to erect a chapel. (See picture below.) According to *"Historical Sketch of First Baptist Church,"* 1935 rev. 1941, by Richard K. Redwine, (the) "Chapel was dedicated Nov. 11, 1900, with W. F. Jones, J. F. Click, C. A. Carrier & W. R. Gwaltney participating. The cost to build the chapel was $230, of which Brother J. D. Elliott paid half."

On Feb. 24, 1907 the West Hickory Mission became West Hickory Baptist Church (hereafter in this book to be referenced as WHBC). These nineteen were charter members:

Mrs. Ruey Burns	E. R. Burns	A. D. Isenhour
Mrs. A. V. Isenhour	Miss Pearl Jones	Wiley Jones
Mrs. L. C. Jones	Miss Claudia Jones	A. G. Maynard
Mrs. M. J. Maynard	J. M. Maynard	Mrs. Sadie Maynard
Mrs. L. C. Maynard	Mrs. Minnie McKenzie	Mrs. J. C. Miller
T. S. Miller	Mrs. M. A. Pierce	Mrs. Etta Raby
Mrs. M. A. Triplett		

The Rev. Charles M. Robinson was the first pastor, and he served for three years. Born in 1873, he was ordained April 10, 1907, in Hickory. In those days it was the custom to call pastors for one year at a time. Many did just that, moving on to other churches and frequently dividing their time among more than one. Rev. Robinson preached at WHBC once a month, and the other churches he served were Brookford, Piney Grove and High Shoals. In October 1907 our church was admitted to the South Fork Association at its meeting at Olivet Baptist Church in Catawba County. The membership of the church was listed at 26 (9 males and 17 females) with 120 enrolled in Sunday School; value of the church property was $500, and the pastor's salary was $42 per year.



1907 Panoramic/Cartographic Map of West Hickory - WHBC is shown in left center
(Note Austin's store on corner in front of church, and Piedmont Wagon in forefront.)
"Bird's-eye-view of Hickory, North Carolina. Drawn by A. E. Downs."
Reference: LC Panoramic maps (2nd ed.) 664

OLDEST EXTANT CHURCH ROLL
1915

Abee, Ella
Abee, Ethel
Abee, James
Abee, Katie
Abee, Sue
Abernethy, A. J.
Abernethy, Edgar
Abernethy, J. B.
Abernethy, Jimmie
Abernethy, Leefie
Abernethy, Lillian
Abernethy, Walter
Abernethy, Vida
Barkley, Pearl
Barkley, Thomas
Beard, Ada
Beard, W. M.
Beard, Mrs. W. M.
Benfield, Kanie
Benfield, Mrs. R. P.
Benfield, Ralph
Benfield, W. L.
Boston, Cobe
Bowman, L. S.
Bowman, Mrs. L. S.
Branch, G. W.
Branch, Mrs. G. W.
Brown, Cordelia
Buff, P. F.
Buff, Mrs. Sarah
Burch, Bettie
Burch, Edna
Burch, H. A.
Burch, J. Parks
Burch, Mattie
Bulter, Alex
Butler, Archie
Butler, J. K.
Butler, Jane
Butler, John
Butler, Julius
Butler, Mrs. Julius
Butler, Lattie
Butler, Lucinda
Butler, Pink
Butler, Tessie
Byers, J. W.
Byers, Mrs. Maudie
Carswell, Angeline
Carswell, Clyde
Carswell, Eliza
Carswell, Frank
Carswell, G. M.
Carswell, Pink
Chatman, Mary
Christopher, Essie
Christopher, Lavette
Christopher, M. L.
Clark, Grover
Clay, Lena
Cline, Della
Cook, G. C.
Cook, John
Cook, Mary
Cook, Minnie
Cook, Ola
Cook, Thomas
Cook, Rev. W. N.
Cook, Mrs. W. N.
Cordell, N. M.
Crouch, Elizabeth
Deal, Clarence
Deal, Mary
Deal, Nora
Drum, A. J.
Drum, Mrs. A. J.
Drum, Lillie
Drum, Pearl
Duncan, Minnie
Elrod, Mrs. Will
Ennis, Mamie
Franklin, Jennie
Franklin, Jesse
Freeman, J. M.
Freeman, Mrs. J. M.
Frye, Nannie
Frye, Walter
Greene, J. D.
Hammond, Ed
Hammond, Mrs. Ed
Haas, Jane
Haas, Sallie
Hefner, Katie
Hefner, Preston
Helton, R. C.
Helton, Mrs. R. C.
Herman, Alex
Herman, Grace
Hicks, R. F.
Hicks, Mrs. R. F.
Hicks, W. G.
Hicks, Mrs. W. G.
Hoover, Annie
Isenhour, A. D.
Isenhour, Addie
Isenhour, Clenroy
Isenhour, Clifford
Isenhour, Delphia
Isenhour, Earl
Isenhour, Mrs. Earl
Isenhour, Eva
Isenhour, J. J.
Isenhour, Mrs. J. J.
Isenhour, Tina
Jones, Claudie [sic]
Jones, Mamie
Jones, Thelma
Jones, Mrs. Wiley
Justice, Jessie
Kenworthy, L. P.
Lail, C. W.
Lail, Eva
Lail, Julie
Lail, Marie
Lail, Zenie
Lawrence, Lillian
Leonard, Alice
Lovette, A. H.
Lowman, Jones
Lowman, Mrs. Jones
Lowman, Preston
Lowman, Roy
Lowman, S. J.
Marshall, Flossie
Keever, Jessie
Marshall, T. W.
Marshall, Victoria
Martin, Julia
Martin, Pearl
Matheson, Victoria
May, Charles
May, Della
May, Mary
May, Mrs. Wm. T.
McKenzie, Minnie
Melton, J. C.
Melton, Jennie
Melton, Katie
Miller, Claude
Miller, Fon
Miller, Ivey
Pearson, A. L.
Pearson, Mrs. A. L.
Pierce, Earl
Pierce, Ethel
Pierce, J. R.
Pierce, Mrs. J. R.
Pierce, M. A.
Pierce, Macy
Poole, B.
Powell, Bulah
Powell, Ethel
Propst, Lloyd
Propst, Mrs. Lloyd
Propst, Mary
Raby, Lula
Reep, Barbara
Reep, Carrie
Reep, Lucy
Reep, Thomas
Reid, Johnnie
Rhyne, C. V.
Rhyne, Mrs. C. V.
Rowe, Dillie
Sanders, Lula
Sanders, W. Henry
Seitz, Annie Lee
Self, Etta
Self, R. A.
Senter, Winnie
Spencer, Ivey
Spencer, Mabel
Spencer, S. M.
Spencer, Thursy
Stafford, Bessie
Stafford, Mrs.
Stafford, C. S.
Stafford, Will, Jr.
Stamey, M. P.
Stamey, Mrs. M. P.
Weaver, J. T
Weaver, Mrs. J. T.
Whitener, Jennie
Whitener, Katie
Wilson, Ella
Wilson, Jake

1927 - Photo most likely shot on the occasion of newly brick-veneered church completion

Rev. James Melvin Shaver, Jr. (born in Iredell County in 1863) was pastor in 1910. He had been educated at Vashti Academy, which was founded and supported by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He also took a one month pastor's course at Wake Forest. Rev. Shaver preached at WHBC the second Sunday of each month.

Rev. William Newton Cook (born in 1878 in the Globe community of Caldwell County) served from 1911-1915. In 1910 his salary was $100 per year. His preaching was the first and third Sundays of each month at WHBC and the others at Brookford Baptist. Nothing is known of the offerings of the church until 1911, when they totaled $270. Eighty-two were baptized and 157 added by letter during Rev. Cook's term. In later years (as noted in the January 18, 1958, *Biblical Recorder)* he established the first Baptist Training Union west of Asheville, NC.

In May 1913 WHBC purchased a parcel of land for $500 from L. R. Fry. This lot was 50 feet wide by 100 feet deep, on Burke Street (now Main Ave. Dr. NW) and 100 feet from the corner of Caldwell Street (now 12th Street). It is not known if there was a house on the lot when it was bought, but it was where the first parsonage was located.

Rev. L. P. Smith served as pastor from 1916 -1920. He was born in Burke County in 1884, son of M. C. and Amanda Rector Smith. He was married to the former Nora Lessie Bradley. WHBC was his first pastorate, and was fortunate in that the members now had services every Sunday. By 1919 church membership was 256; property was valued at $3,000.00 and Sunday School enrollment was 221. The pastor's annual salary was now $1,200 and Missions offering was $144. At the South Fork Association meeting in 1919, Pastor Smith was appointed to write the program for the 1920 meeting. He was also appointed as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Calling card of Pastor & Mrs. Smith

Rev. L. P. Smith baptizing in Catawba River near "Flat Rock" between 1916-1920. Photo provided many years ago by Lonnie Hoyle, who is thought to be one of the boys pictured.

Rev. William Loman Barrs (b. 1883) was pastor in 1920, when twenty-seven people were baptized in the Catawba River and twelve new members were added by letter. Church membership totaled 258. Copied from the Sunday School report of the South Fork Association Minutes was the following: "In order to make our Sunday School attractive, we must have adequate equipment, such as clean rooms, seats, maps, blackboards, plenty of good song books, musical instruments, and organized classes, especially for the young men and women. Make our music live and snappy and then all join together in one great effort to accomplish some definite goals. We are living in an age when pennies do not go very far in purchasing power."

Reverend Henry Rutledge Freeman served as pastor from 1922 to 1923. He was from Henderson Co., NC, and was a distant cousin of Mrs. Ruth Brown (long-time member of WHBC). His untimely death came in 1923 when he and several other church members were returning from a Southern Baptist Convention, and he was involved in an automobile accident which claimed his life.

Rev. C. D. Barton served from 1924 to 1926. During his term there were thirty-two baptisms, and total church membership increased from 188 to 247.

Rev. R. G. Short was pastor from 1927 to 1930. Per church minutes of August 20, 1927, they voted *"to build rest of church brick veneer and raise ceiling and build a room." [sic]* Expenditures on Buildings & Repairs, as reported to South Fork Association in September 1928, totaled $1,929.75 and in 1929, $1,042.66. This was a fairly significant amount compared to the years in proximity. The church property was now valued at $12,000.00 and the parsonage, $2,000.00.

It was on January 26, 1931, that First Baptist Church deeded to WHBC the property which they had purchased and built our first chapel on. Trustees at that time were L. C. Pierce, Dock Elrod, H. D. Isenhour, L. R. Elrod and L. E. Abernethy.

Reverend William W. Marr served as pastor from 1931 to 1939. He had previously served at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church in Lincolnton. On the evening prior to his first sermon at WHBC, Rev. Marr was married to his wife Margie by another local pastor, Rev. M. I. Harris. Both pastors had preached at different revivals and had the wedding after the services in Rev. Harris' home.

During the 1930's and the Great Depression, the church suffered financially. Rev. Marr's salary was approximately $27 per week; however, despite church growth (from 260 members in 1931 to 366 in 1939), the tithe was not enough to pay his salary and church expenses. Rev. Marr agreed to reduce his own salary by $2 a week to make ends meet. Rev. Marr is remembered as a good preacher who loved to teach the Bible, most notably, the book of Revelation.

In the 1930's Mrs. M. E. (Lottie) Rhyne began a church nursery for children 4 years old and younger. Her assistant in the nursery was Mrs. Modena Danner. As the church grew, the nursery required additional assistance, and Mrs. Hazel Keller became a second assistant. Mrs. Rhyne served in the nursery until 1968. Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Nadine Cater also worked for many years thereafter.

Pastor R. C. Shearin served during the war years, from 1940 until 1946. Economics were bad, but the desire to worship was strong, bringing the church to two Sunday worship services in 1941.

In 1943, the pastor and church council proposed a $150 weekly budget. It was accepted, which caused some members to seek a church home elsewhere. (Other reports site theological differences.) Rev. Marr was called out of retirement to be pastor of their new church, Calvary Baptist. He served there for twenty-seven years, until his death at age 92.

Ladies' S.S. Class-Mid 40's

Unknown church function - Mid 1940's

Front, (L-R) Numa Miller, Minnie Wike, Jimmie Lee Setzer, Joanne Rhyne, ? , Mrs. U. S. (Laura) Huffman, Thelma Smith, Mrs. R. C. Shearin & daughter, Mrs. J. E. (Jessie) Day; Back: M. E. Rhyne, T. C. Byers, Lois Ward, Walter Sherrill, ? , O. F. Annas, Bertie Teague, Mrs. J. E. McCrain, June Teague, ? , Junie Rector

Vacation Bible School - Early 40's

Bible School 1942

Front: Carroll Rhyne; 2nd row, 3rd from lt: Jack McCrain, ?, ?, Joanne Rhyne (Gantt), Jimmie Lee Setzer, Wanda Reed; 3rd row, 2nd from left: Noel Odom, ? , Edna Herman, ?, Miriam West, Lorene Smith, Millie Dellinger, Faye Sigmon, Ted Rhyne (w/flag); 4th row: ?, Roy Huffman, ?, Sigmon, ?, ?, ?, Bob Reed, Irene Herman, ?, Virginia Hemphill, Sue Reed (Franklin); back: Rev. Shearin, Robert Huffman, Polly Abernethy (Willis), ?, Martha Cline

1940's

Fr. (L-R) Mrs. Tom Winkler, Ann Freeman, Mrs. O.F. Annas, Bessie Rowe, Ethel Riley, Mrs. T. C. Byers; back: Margaret Abee, Bertha Beach, Mrs. Keye, Ada Cline, Mrs. Roy Williams, Mrs. Shull, ? , Delphia Teague, Laura Huffman

Juanita & Ralph Bolick's wedding - June 6, 1948 (in old sanctuary)

Margaret Reed - B. R. Spencer Wedding - April 23, 1949

1947 White Christmas

Winsome Class, Nova Deal, Teacher - 1949
Front, (L-R) Nova, ? , Carol Teague, Ann Oliver, Sue Franklin; 2nd: Margaret Spencer, ?, Mary Huffman, ? 3rd: Marjorie Barkley, Joyce Wilson, Joni Rozzelle, Jean Annas; back: ?, ?, Maria Winkler, Betty Lail, (? child)

Sara Blanton
First full-time Religious Educ. Director
early 1950's

1949-50 Class (Left: Gary "Red" Robinson)

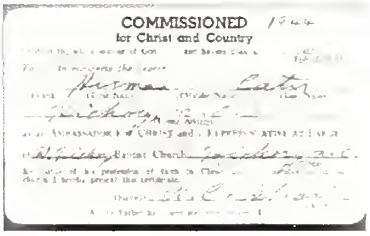
1949 picnic at parsonage

(L) Mrs.Tom Boyd, John & Jane Gardner, Gladys Robinson, Helen Boyd Rippey, Jack Bolick, Mrs. Tom Shell

(L) Jim Reed, Fred Rhoney

The war years were difficult, but WHBC was supportive of our men in service, urging members to pray for and write to them. In 1941 they purchased new testaments for those in the armed forces, or "Army boys," as our old records related. One of the Bibles, pictured at right, and signed inside by Rev. Shearin, had a copper cover and was sent to Herman Cater, long-time WHBC member. In 1943 the church voted to buy (American) flags for the church and men in service.

Under Rev. Shearin, a building fund was started. In 1940 the church voted to rent a house across the street from the church for additional Sunday School rooms. That building had originally been a "filling station" and then converted into a house. In May 1944 they purchased the property (160 ft. wide and 125 ft. deep) for $1,800 with plans to use it for a parsonage. It wasn't until December 1, 1945, that it was decided to do the remodeling – at a cost of $3,000 – to be taken from the building fund. That parsonage is pictured below. The old parsonage was demolished.


COMMISSIONED
for Christ and Country

Plans were drawn up for a completely new church, but the war prevented building. By 1946 the building fund had accumulated approximately $26,000.

When Rev. Shearin began his pastorate in 1940, church membership was 406. At the end of 1946, when he resigned to go to Stephens Memorial Baptist Church in Greensboro, it had risen to 630. Rev. J. N. Binford was then hired as interim pastor.

Rev. Fritz D. Hemphill, who served as pastor of WHBC from May 1947 until 1960, was a native of Rutherford County. His educational background included Round Hill Academy, Wingate Junior College, and Wake Forest College. Upon graduation from Wake Forest, Rev. Hemphill proceeded with graduate study as he taught in the Modern Language Department for three years. He then served as a pastor in Durham for several years before joining the Durham Office of Superintendent of City Missions.

Mrs. Fritz Hemphill, the former Rose Johnson, was also a native of Rutherford County. She, along with her husband, was active in all of the organizations of the church. The Hemphill family was integral to the growth of the church. They were the parents of four sons, George, Eschol, Robert, and James.

When the war ended, people were crowding churches; both money and materials were readily available. During this time many training programs and study courses were developed to train members to be Sunday School teachers and directors, deacons, and officers of the church.

The building plans that had been previously developed were no longer adequate, and the church property was not large enough to erect a building to meet the church needs. In an effort to quickly add to the building fund, "Ten Dollar Bill Sunday" was held in August 1948. This effort raised $2500, enough for a down payment for the piece of property adjacent to the church. This property was owned by Mr. L. E. Abernethy and Mrs. C. B. Starr.

It is an interesting fact that in 1900 the trustees of the First Baptist Church sold that portion of the church lot to Mr. Abernethy for $93.75, and then WHBC bought back the property in 1948 for $7,500.

After the down payment, the balance was to be paid in installments of $600 per year until paid in full. The property was located on 23rd Street (now 44 12th St. NW), and measured 123 feet x 150 feet. With this addition, WHBC had frontage of 223 feet on 23rd Street with a depth of 150 feet. Eventually the new buildings would surround Mr. Abernethy's house on three sides. Mr. Abernethy (or "Uncle Ed," as everyone called him) had use of the home until his death in 1965.

Over the years, various campaigns were utilized in helping to raise building funds. Among them noted were: "Bank Day," 10/48 - 1/49 ($300); "Investment Day," (5/29/49); "Diamond Day," (dime-a-day), 12/31/50 (raised over $400); "Build more in Fifty-Four," May 1951; "New Money Day," 9/12/51; "Folding Money Day," 12/51; "Sacrifice Sunday," 7/52; and "Week's Wages" campaign, 9/25/55.

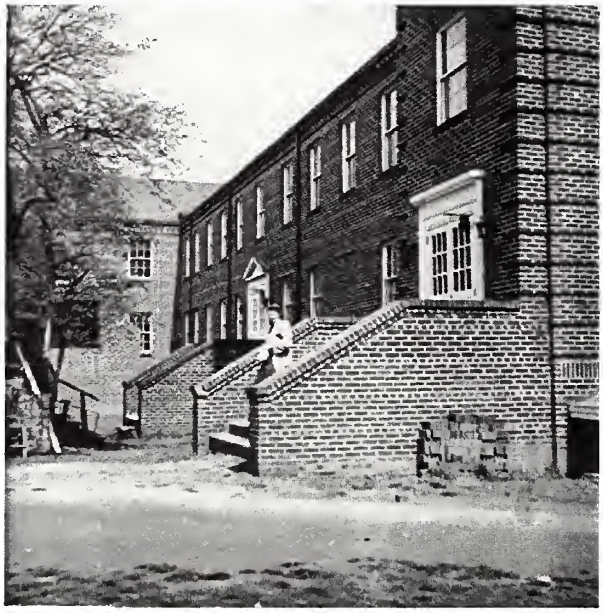
The Youth & Education Building "A" (see pictures below) was erected in 1949 for a total of $41,527.07 (including architect, equipment and lot). Actual building cost was $4.13 per square foot. It was dedicated on September 4th of that year, debt free, and with an attendance surpassing 400. This was noted to be the highest attendance in ten years. That day the first offerings were received for the second unit planned.

According to the November 1949 *Church Bell*, Bill Hayes – owner and operator of Rock Corner Grocery – donated the use of a lot, formerly occupied by his store, directly in front of the church. The lot was graded and graveled and used for church parking. This store had originally been Austin's store, which eventually moved to the corner of what is now 2nd Avenue and 9th Street NW. Mr. Hayes had purchased the store from Austin and it burned several years later. After using this lot belonging to Mr. Hayes, rent free for several years, the church purchased it in 1951.

Old brick church, between 1950-1951, as evidenced by view of the new church steeple in background

February 25, 1951

The Adult "B" building (pictured below) was constructed in 1950-51 at a cost of $54,671.83 and averaged $4.45 per square foot. Equipment costs of $4,268.00 brought the total to $58,939.83. The bell tower, at a height of 112 feet above ground, was noted as being the highest steeple in Hickory. Services were moved into the temporary sanctuary downstairs, for which opera chairs had been purchased. This is the area of the church that in later years was used for day care rooms. In March 1951 Cater Radio donated a public address system for the sanctuary.



The formal opening of the new addition was on Feb. 25, 1951. Dr. M. A. Huggins, Executive Secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Raleigh, was guest speaker for the 11:00 service. Rev. Tom Freeman preached the 7:30 PM service. Sunday School attendance was 566; Training Union, 88, and the evening service totaled over 300 people.

In April 1951 the old church building was sold to Kerr Sand Company for $775 to be demolished and the area cleaned of debris.

The church purchased the Fox property in 1954 from C. Robert Hahn for $5,000, paid in full in September. It consisted of a house and lot, 75' x 343', and was being used for a playground and parking lot. (This was east of the original parsonage, adjacent to a lot owned by C. R. Hahn.)

Men's Class - Feb. 25, 1951

Front, (L-R): Charles Rowe, Loren Bruner; middle: Max Freeman, Hovis, Virgil Martin, Pete Pierce, Carmie Cook, back: John Gardner, ? , Roy Morris, Leo Settlemyre, A. W. Morris

Lounge - 1950's (now the library)

Ground breaking for the new sanctuary, the final phase of the building plans, was held on March 28, 1954. Of those involved in the ceremony were Pastor Hemphill; Mrs. Claudia Jones Carswell, charter member; L. E. Abernethy, oldest member; all heads of different organizations, and deacons. Scripture was read by the pastor; Wade Abee, Chairman of Deacons, led in prayer and the congregation joined in the singing of *"Blest Be the Tie."*

Note old parsonage on corner across street.

Rev. Hemphill,
Mr. & Mrs. Pink Carswell

John Link (at right) Chm. of Building Committee; ("Red" Robinson at ambulance near his father, Plez)

Fr. (L-R) Wade Abee, Walter Sherrill, Boyd Matheson.... Ed Abernethy (white hair); boy, far right: Robert Hemphill

Deacons

Bottom (L-R) Virgil Martin, Wade Abee, W.K. Truett, Asa Gabbard, C.P. Abernethy; 2nd: Pete Pierce, Earl Lutz, Ralph Bolick, A.A. Rowe, O.F. Annas, Bob Reed, Robert Huffman, Boyd Matheson, Walter Sherrill; back: Edgar Brown, Alvin Riley

(L-R) Ruth & Colon Reese, Bertie Sue Martin, Elizabeth Buff, W.P. Freeman, Horace Tallent

Rev. Hemphill receives cake from Maria Winkler as wife, Rose, sons, James and Robert, and L. J. Hollar look on.

1953 Vacation Bible School Class

Teachers (left) Ruth Morris, Nihla Truett, Nancy Brown, Bessie Rowe

Front left, starting with middle girl with plaid dress: Miriam Wilson, Peggy Benfield, Mike Compton, Sherman Lutz, Penny Martin; 2nd row: Ralph Hefner, Jr....Roger Link (behind M. Wilson); 3rd row, 2nd from left: Carl Hollar, Linda Lou Setzer, Carolyn Poovey....Becky Hefner (3rd from right); back row: Joey Franklin & Gary "Red" Robinson (in front of Nancy Brown), Barry Deal, Tony Truett

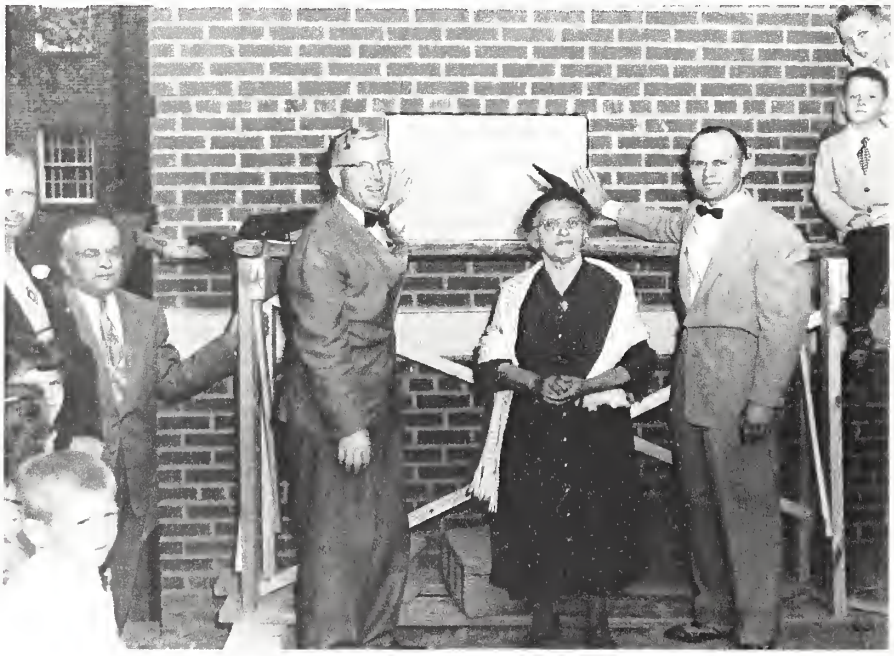
On September 26, 1954, dedication and cornerstone laying took place. The membership of the church now stood at 891, with 1,035 enrolled in Sunday School, 236 in Training Union, 211 in WMU organizations, and 45 in the Brotherhood. The following article regarding this celebration was printed in the September 29, 1954, *Church Bell:*

"Last Sunday was a day that will always be remembered by the West Hickory people. Never before in the history of our church have we had the attendance that we had in Sunday School. Our attendance reached 614 with an offering of $1,554.11 for the Building Program, and a total offering of $2,327.54. The average attendance for the month of September was 517, which breaks all previous records.

A large crowd witnessed the Corner Stone Laying. The service began with the singing of a hymn, "My Hope is Built." The Pastor read Scripture and led in prayer, and then Mrs. W. K. Cline placed the following things in the box that was put into the vault: copy of the oldest extant church roll (contained 196 names and dated about 1915); present roll of (over 900) church members; a Bible; history of the church; copies of the Hickory Daily Record, Biblical Recorder, Charity & Children; two copies of the Church Bell, weekly church paper; cancelled note on the Adult Building and names of signers; picture of Faithful Workers class, the oldest ladies' class.

Minutes of the church authorizing the construction of the sanctuary, and a copy of the 1953 minutes of the South Fork Association were also placed into the box. Wade Abee assisted the pastor in placing the stone in the niche. The congregation sang "How Firm a Foundation," and the closing prayer was led by Walter Sherrill, the Superintendent of Sunday School.

At promotion time everyone went to his place, and everything was carried out in a fine manner.The day was climaxed with a good T.U. (Training Union) with 100 present."



Laying of Cornerstone - September 26, 1954
Rev. F. D. Hemphill, Mrs. W. K. Cline, Wade Abee
Left: C.P. Abernethy, Walter Sherrill, Joey Franklin, Robert Perkins, ?

Aerial View - 1950's

The sanctuary was completed in January 1955 at a cost of $114,384. Some interesting facts about the construction expenses include:

Excavation by Kerr Sand Co. for .15 per yard
Contract with Elmore Const. Co. of Catawba to erect building for 6% of cost
Contract for brick work to L. E. Sipe Const. Co. at $29.50 per thousand
Contract for plumbing to Ingold Co. for $1,941
Contract for heating to Ingold Co. for $8,960
Contract for electrical wiring & fixtures to Electric Wiring Co. for $12,394
Final figures, cost of new sanctuary: $114,384.45
Equipment and repairs to Adult Bldg. upped cost to $130,664.04
Still $11,000 short of paying off obligation on April 27, 1955

The sanctuary is located at the corner of Twelfth Street and Main Avenue Drive NW. The entire structure contained over 37,000 square feet of floor space. All three units were designed by Hickory architect D. Carroll Abee. The church building was constructed by Elmore Construction Company, while the two education units were built under the direction of the late Z. E. Barger. The Sanctuary is colonial in design, with four tall Corinthian columns gracing the entrance. A slim steeple towers 112 feet above the ground at a point where the church and adult education building join.

Rev. Hemphill personally supervised the purchase of materials and the construction of the three units. The sanctuary's capacity was to seat more than 750 persons, and the Sunday School facilities to accommodate more than 1,000 persons.

As constructed in 1954, there were a total of ninety-two rooms in the building, seventy of which were classrooms. Included were four nurseries with a reception room and kitchenette, two beginner departments, and one primary department without classrooms. There were also two well-equipped kitchens, a pastor's study, educational director's office, secretary's office, music room, eleven toilets, storage rooms, and a large playground.

The new sanctuary was designed to be as bright and cheery as possible, and featured all indirect or concealed lighting. Cork and asphalt tile covered the floor, and red mahogany and white pews, built by Southern Desk Company of Hickory, brightened the effect still further. The pulpit furniture was made by Southern Church Furniture Company of Hickory. The wrought iron work was done by Iron Works of Hickory. The organ was Hammond and the piano was a Baldwin Hamilton.

Special glass ~ hand-blown in Germany ~ was used in all windows in the sanctuary. Although without color, the glass is slightly opaque and it cuts down on sunlight by diffusing it. Memorial windows were paid for by members at $200 each, which was less than the windows actually cost.

Unique sound chambers with grilled openings are located above the organ and piano on either side of the pulpit in order to improve tonal qualities. Behind the choir loft is located the baptistry, which is made from steel plate according to code, and is skid proof. It is entered from hallways on each side of the baptistry. It was built by member Andrew John Link, who also served as the Building Committee Chairman.

Downstairs there is a large fellowship hall which contains a stage equipped with special overhead spotlights. This room is also designed so that it can be divided at some future time into two rooms by means of a folding wall, or into five classrooms. A large kitchen is located to the rear of the assembly hall with an entrance from the rear parking lot.

The first service, a dedication and ribbon cutting, was held in the new sanctuary on January 23, 1955. The ribbon across the entrance to the sanctuary was cut prior to the Worship Service by Diane Deal and James Hemphill, the two youngest members of the church. (See picture below.) This marked the completion of the church and the formal opening of the sanctuary. An all-time high attendance was set with 660 in Sunday School and 205 in Training Union. Over 800 attended the Worship Service on Sunday morning.

During the dedication service, the contractor, Mr. Henry Elmore, presented the keys to the Pastor. He in turn presented keys to the heads of all the organizations of the church. Rev. A. A. Walker, our Associational Missionary, led the dedicatory prayer and Pastor Hemphill preached the dedicatory sermon. Open house was from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, with approximately 600 to 700 people viewing the entire building.

At the evening worship service, Rev. Tom M. Freeman (who was sent out by this church), Pastor of Hocutt Memorial Church, Burlington, NC, brought the message. Our Pastor wrote, "We express a special note of thanks to Hendley Ellington who led the music, Mrs. Enloe Young, organist, Mrs. J.W. Joy, pianist, Mr. Joy who played the marimba, and to the choir for the inspiring music."

Dedication services continued for the next three Sundays, with special messages – morning and evening – brought by Dr. E. L. Spivey, Secretary of State Missions in N. C.; Rev. R. C. Shearin, former pastor; Mrs. Edwin Dozier, missionary to Japan; Mr. Horace Easom, N. C. Brotherhood President; James P. Morgan, State Training Union Director; and Rev. Alvin A. Walker, Missionary of South Fork Association.

On March 27, 1955, the church celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day. This ceremony included details of Pastor Hemphill's accomplishments in his career. The Pastor was offered a special gift, a combined trip to tour the Holy Land and attend the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London that summer. However, Pastor Hemphill did not accept this gift, choosing to give all the donations made for this occasion toward the reduction of the debt of the sanctuary construction.

West Hickory Baptist Church

SUNDAY MORNING JAN. 23, 1955

MORNING SERVICE

9:45 Sunday School ..... W. R. Sherrill, Supt.

10:45 Cutting of Ribbon ..... Dianne Deal & James Hemphill

11:00 Organ Prelude ..... Mrs. Enloe Young

Gloria Patri ..... (Congregation standing)

Invocation, Response by Choir

Hymn 212—"All Hail The Power of Jesus Name" (Coronation)

Announcements, Recognitions

Presentation of Keys

Speeches of Acceptance

Solo—"The Lord's Prayer" ..... Mrs. Polly Willis

Prayer of Dedication ..... Rev. Alvin A. Walker

Hymn of Dedication ..... Congregation

Morning Offering

Doxology ..... (Congregation standing)

Dedication of Offering

Special Music—"All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name" (Diadem) ..... Choir

Sermon: "The Body Of Christ" ..... Pastor

Invitation Hymn 121—"Just As I Am"

Benediction ..... Three Fold Amen

Organ Postlude

EVENING SERVICE

6:30 Training Union ..... Boyd M. Matheson, Director

7:30 Organ Prelude ..... Mrs. Enloe Young

"The Lord Is In His Holy Temple" ..... Choir

Invocation

Hymn 108—"Revive Us Again"

Training Union Report

Announcements

Solo—"Bless This Church" ..... Sara Blanton

Song Service

Evening Offering

Special Music—"Wherever He Leads I'll Go" ..... Choir

Message—"Dare To Be A Great Christian" ..... Tom M. Freeman

Invitation Hymn 361—"Have Thine Own Way"

Benediction

Organ Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To God be the glory! He has marvelously blessed our efforts and multiplied our gifts and today we worship for the first time in our 60 year history in a beautiful sanctuary.

We extend a hearty welcome to all former members who worship with us today along with many friends who have come to rejoice with us. You are invited to come back this afternoon and see the entire building.

Due to our inability to secure some needed material all the work is not finished. Please be careful of the stairs as the rail is not up.

The lovely flowers were thoughtfully presented by firms that furnished materials, our grateful thanks for them.

If you are looking for a church home where people love one another and the spirit is felt and fellowship is sweet, we invite you to join with us today!

Order of Service - Dedication of New Sanctuary - January 23, 1955

Sanctuary Dedication - January 23, 1955

1st row, left: ?, Nadine Cater, Dixie Leonhardt, Joanne Gantt, Jeanette Teague, Mary Ann Bowman, Becky Woods, Mrs. Irvin Willis, Rachel Stafford, Mrs. James Stamey, Bobbie Mull, Helen Cater; 2nd row: Nancy Brown, Ann Freeman, Vivian Martin, Juanita Bolick, Jerry Sipe, Ann Sigmon, Jane Gardner, Betty Dula, Sue Buchanan, Mrs. Bill Biggerstaff, Maria Winkler, Iris Barger; 3rd row: Boyd Matheson, Joe Brown, Bennett Hollar, Joanne Mask, ?, Red Coble, Ralph Smith, Jack Daye, Donald Annas; 4th row: Wade Abee, Max Freeman, Ralph Bolick, Dillon Cannon, John Deal

Following the October 7, 1955 decision of South Fork Association to organize two associations, a called session was held November 6, 1955, at First Baptist Church, Maiden. At that time twenty-four churches secured letters from South Fork, and this group moved to East Maiden Baptist Church to form a new association – Theron Rankin – named in honor of a former missionary and professor. Dr. M. Theron Rankin was born in 1894 and was graduated from Wake Forest in 1918 and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville KY.

Rev. Fritz D. Hemphill was unanimously elected as Theron Rankin Association's first Moderator and Helen Cater, Clerk. Miss Cater (pictured below) was our church secretary, initially hired for part-time service in December 1950 at $10 week. She served as Secretary of the association, its only officer, from 1961 to 1984. In 1956 the first Annual Meeting for the Theron Rankin Association was held on the dates of October 25, 1956, at First Baptist Church, Hickory, and October 26, 1956, at First Baptist Church, Hildebran.

On June 3, 1956, the church broke ground for a new parsonage. Enloe Young was contracted as the builder. While the new home was being built, the Hemphills lived in a house across the street from First Baptist Church, which WHBC rented from them. The parsonage was completed in November of 1956, and an Open House was held on November 25. The all brick structure included the use of 2,906 cinder blocks and 28,123 bricks. Total cost of construction was $27,627.97. The house is pictured above.

As noted in the Church Bell of August 26, 1959, since the church began construction in the spring of 1949, we had borrowed and invested almost $200,000 plus $100,000 in offerings. Our indebtedness had been reduced to about $58,000 at the time of that writing.

In 1960 Rev. Hemphill left WHBC to go to Fruitland Bible Institute, Hendersonville, NC, to serve as Director. In September of that year, the pulpit furniture used in the former sanctuary was donated to Fruitland and was transported there by WHBC member Earl Lutz. Rev. B. E. Morris was interim pastor after Rev. Hemphill left.

1956 6 yr. olds w/Rev. Hemphill
Fr. (L) Nancy Link, Roger Martin, ? , Richard Benfield, Danny Shuford, Nancy Moore, Ray Church, Janice Gantt; 2nd: Tommy Fisher, Ronnie Rhyne, Dennis Rikard, ? , ? , Johnny Riley; back: Gary Cook

1957 Class
Front: Robbie Reed, Tony Clay, ?; 2nd row: Larry Church, ?, Vicky Lail, Tommy Simpson, Rick Hemphill, Bobby Carswell; 3rd: David Sumter, Julie Dula, Sandra Huffman,?, ?, Michael Elrod; back: Debbie Brooks, ?, ?, Kathy Price

1957 6 yr. olds
Teachers: Jane Gardner, Edith Cater
Fr. 3rd from left: Anita McDaniels, Daphne Lutz, Cheryl Ann Walters, ? , Jerry Winkler, ? ; back:: ? , Pat & Judy Barkley, Janice Truett, Terry Spencer (end)

Mid 50's
(L-R) Barry Deal, Carl Hollar, Daphne Lutz, Sherman Lutz, Robert Hemphill

Mid 50's
Fr: Judy Ward (Burns), Jerry Winkler, ? ; 2nd row, 3rd from left: Pat Rhyne; back: Terry Spencer, Benny Gantt, ?

1950-51
Fr. (L-R): Eugene Goforth, Betty Jane Setzer, Vera Sutherland, Martha Brooks; 2nd: Dennis Bruner, Tony Truett, Mike Compton, Ralph Hefner; back: Eugene Holland, Miriam Wilson, Lee Barkley, Roger Link, Sheila (Chi-Chi) Powell

Rev. Frank Thomas and his wife, Bernice, moved here October 1960 from Mississippi for him to become our pastor. Their daughter, Faith, was our organist.

In August 1961 WHBC purchased property (lot size 75 x 343 ft.) on Main Avenue Drive for $12,500 from C. Robert Hahn. This was eventually used to house missionaries, then staff members; at this writing it is now a rental house. Other improvements made during those years included air-conditioning the sanctuary.

By the mid 1960s, church membership had increased to 1,105 with 249 being nonresident members. Sunday School enrollment was 1,034; Training Union, 242, and the WMU organization reached an enrollment of 167. The church property was valued at $367,500. As the church enrollment grew, the offerings reflected the spiritual growth of the members, from a total offering of $270 in 1911 to $58,826.97 in 1963. The Director of Religious Education was Rev. George B. Harris, III, from Richmond, Virginia. Hendley Ellington was Music Director; church secretary was Bonnette Young of Connelly Springs, and the building superintendent was Reynold Kight of Hickory.

In November of 1966, WHBC formally dedicated its building and grounds with a special dedication day service. The service was a victory celebration on the occasion of the liquidation of the church indebtedness, and all notes of formal debt were burned. Two former WHBC pastors, under whose leadership the building fund and building program were established and completed, were present: Rev. R. C. Shearin, who established the building fund, and Rev. F. D. Hemphill, who greatly contributed to the completion of the program. Rev. Hemphill delivered the message at the morning worship service, and an afternoon reception honored former pastors.

Another acquisition of land took place in January 1969. This purchase was a vacant lot measuring 100 ft. x 172 ft., on Main Avenue Drive, NW, east of and adjacent to the house of the Minister of Music. In May of that year, it was decided to replace the wooden portion of the church tower with a fiberglass spire, cupola, and base unit. It was supplied by Fiberglass Specialities Co., Henderson, Texas; removal and erection were by Hickory Construction Company.

Upon the resignation of Rev. Thomas in 1971, Rev. Tommy Stevens, missionary to Indonesia, was on furlough and served as our interim pastor.

In the early 1970's, the WHBC Youth were active in the community in a variety of ways. Church members Carl and Nancy Hollar were instrumental in keeping this program busy. Under the leadership of Lucille King, youth dramas were held several times a year. Lucille often penned these dramas herself.

The youth also began a weekly visitation program which included visiting the sick, inactive members, homebound, and prospective members. They would incorporate caroling at area nursing homes and hospitals into their Christmas parties. The youth would often treat the nursing home patients to cookies, juice, and ice cream.

Backyard Bible Schools were held and work days were scheduled for the youth to rake leaves, clean gutters, and perform odd jobs for those within the church and community who could use this extra assistance.

Rev. H. Phillip King, a native of Durham, N. C., became the pastor on January 1, 1972, and served in that capacity until August of 1987. During his pastorate, contributions increased from $70,000.00 to $125,000.00, and the Youth and Adult Buildings were air-conditioned. The offices, parsonage, and Minister of Music's house were renovated. The latter was used as a mission house for furloughing missionaries.

In September of 1973, the church established West Hickory Baptist Daycare Center for children ages 2 to 5 years. Hazel Keller, a member of the church and head of the nursery department, was instrumental in the growth of this outreach as a ministry to the community in and around the church. She was assisted in the endeavor by fellow church member, Mary Dot Walters. Mrs. Keller served twenty-seven months as Daycare director before retiring in December of 1975. Mrs. Walters, affectionately known as "Dot-Dot," continued to work for the Daycare for a total of twenty-five years. In June of 1974, the Daycare added a Summer program for children ages 6 to 11. This program was directed by Kathy Price. Later Daycare directors included Lois Aldridge, Lynn Hayes and Jean Lackey, among others. In September 2005 it was decided by the Daycare Committee and church deacons to regretfully close the Daycare. Due to ever-changing laws and continuous financial strain, it was no longer a feasible outreach program. In celebration of the church's 100th Anniversary on May 6, 2007, a refurbished playground area was dedicated in memory of Hazel Keller (pictured below).

Playground Dedication

Don Smith, 100th Anniversary Comm. Chairman, Elaine Robinson, Ben Huffman, Megan Murphree

Dot Walters, holding picture of Hazel Keller
Lynn McRary Tunstall, Elaine Hollar Robinson (former Daycare pupils)

The Beaver property – 102 12th St. NW – was purchased in 1976 for $17,000.. Presently it is a rental house. The adjacent property south of it (previously known as the Wyant property) was purchased in June 1980 for $15,155, and WHBC had that house removed. A prayer garden is on that spot now, as well as the refurbished playground.

In August 1987 Rev. King resigned in a church division situation. His new church became Christ United Baptist. Reggie Haire, who had been hired as Music Director and Minister of Education in 1986, served our church very faithfully during this period. He took on the additional role as Pastor until Rev. Blaine Grose was called as Interim Pastor in 1987.

Virginia Hemphill proposed in 1987 that a Chrismon Tree be displayed in the church's sanctuary during the Christmas season. This required the crafting of dozens of Chrismon ornaments. Church Treasurer Thelma Annas contacted CVCC Instructor, Metaleen Morgan, for direction on creating these ornaments. The ladies of the church met frequently throughout 1987 and 1988 crafting enough Chrismon ornaments to decorate an eighteen foot tree. This project reached a total cost of $3094.29, paid for by the ladies themselves, along with offerings through memorials and honorariums. Many of the memorials were in memory of Buena Barger, who had been a very dedicated nursery worker prior to her death.

The purchase of the Christmas tree was a tradition of the George Hemphill Couples Class, who traveled into the North Carolina mountains in late fall to select the perfect tall tree to become the Chrismon tree. In the year 2000, an artificial tree was purchased due to changing fire regulations within the Hickory City Limits. The Chrismon tree continues to be displayed as an annual Christmas tradition.

Willene Goans, Thelma Annas & Louise Hallman prepare to hang Chrismons - 1988

George Hemphill Couple's Class
Christmas Tree Trip-1990's
Fr. (L-R) Sandy Burns, Jessica Rhyne, Kathy & Butch Younce, Corey Rhyne; 2nd: Virginia Hemphill, Betty Reep, Judy Burns, Cathie Rhyne, Frances Robinson, Pat Sigmon; back: George Hemphill, Dennis Burns, Kenny Rhyne, Red Robinson, Rick Sigmon, David Reep

1965 Christmas Party

Front: Bertha Pittman, teacher,
(L-R) Mrs. A.C. Taylor, Mrs. Green, Jessie Griffin, Leanna Terrell, Laura Danner, Etta Younce; back: Mrs. E. D. Melvin, Agnes Bollinger, ? , Pauline Reed, Mae Barkley

Bible Study Class - 1982

Fr. (L-R) Revonda Wittenberg, Linda Hayes, Ruth Brown; 2nd: Reba Marlow, Beadie Lutz, ? , Wilma Brittain, Marjorie Barkley, Thelma Annas

Phebean Class - 1973

Fr. (L-R) Phillip King, James "Red" Coble, Nova Deal, Edgar Lineberger; 2nd: Eleanor Church, Gladys Bruner, Beulah Mae Detter, Ruby Reitzell, Virginia Sigmon; 3rd: Evelyn Thompson, Louise Cox, Estelle Ward, Eileen Williams Best; 4th: Gladys Brown, Ruth Morris, Edith Fox, Julia Woody

(This photo was taken on the 20th anniversary of the class formation. Nova Deal was the only teacher for the 25 years it was in existence.)

1986 - combined ladies' class party

Fr. (L-R) Bernice Thomas, Nova Deal, Hilda Bogle, Nell Gabbard, Mary Cranford, Bertha Pittman, Laura Freeman, Mrs. Tom Winkler, Mrs. Wilson; back: Ruth Brown, Maude Link, Leanna Terrell, Elizabeth Buff, Nelle Hollar, Mrs. A. C. Taylor, Bertie Teague, Ruth Hollar, Sue Buchanan, Veda Buchanan, Thelma Smith, Minnie Wike, Louise Cox, Mildred Price

Men's Class - late 1980's

Fr. (L-R) Arnold McCrain, James (Red) Coble, Howard Woody, Arline Moore, Asa Gabbard, G. B. Brendle, Rev. Randolph Heavner; back: John Reid, Turner Jones, Lonnie Smith, Cecil Barger, Harold Lail (teacher), Dewey Keller, John Link

Ridgecrest - mid 1980's

(L-R) Jane King, Bob King, Ruth Morris

1986 Class

(L-R) Sue Buchanan, teacher
Mary Cranford, Bertha Pittman, Mildred Price,
Eloise Heavner, Leanna Terrell, Ruth Hollar

In August 1988, Rev. Wayne Varner was called and began his ministry as pastor of WHBC. His wife, affectionately known as "Miss Violet," was involved in all phases of the church program. The parsonage had been renovated and redecorated in anticipation of a new pastor. During the next eight years Pastor Varner led the church in a clean-up and renovation program, the first complete overhaul since the church was built.

In 1991 a new roof was placed on the church at a cost of $24,973. On the interior, the Fellowship Hall was the first to get a new look. It was redecorated to include new flooring, lighting, paint and blinds. Thermo-tilt windows were installed throughout the church, with the exception of the sanctuary. The Adult and Youth buildings were painted and received new flooring. In the Adult building, partitions were removed, making classrooms larger. For the church office, a new computer and printer were purchased at a cost of $4,325.84. A new Ricoh copying machine was also purchased.

The final phase of the renovation was with the sanctuary in 1996. There, the pews were refinished; a new ceiling was installed; carpet was replaced; and a new sound system was installed. The pulpit area was also redesigned to include a new Boston-Steinway grand piano, which we purchased for $17,341. The outside of the building was also renovated by treating the wood trim and covering the windows and eaves with vinyl siding. Moss-Marlow Building Company contracted the interior work in the sanctuary and exterior work on the church for $110,456.

Special gifts to the church in 1997 included the beautiful chandeliers in the sanctuary and the lighted mahogany cross in the baptismal area. Other improvements came in 1998 when the kitchen was renovated at a total cost of approximately $113,000.

Larry Isenhour served as Music Director from 1988 through May 1995. His wife, Nancy, served as Pianist during that time and continues as assistant accompanist today. During his service, Larry also assembled a handbell choir. Marie Laughter was organist from 1985 until 2000, when she fell ill and was no longer able to play. She died in 2001.

Dr. Martin Rice followed Larry Isenhour as Music Director. He served until early 1996 and is remembered for introducing many of his original songs through the choir.

In 1990 Associate Pastor David Williams was hired to serve a portion of his time to the youth ministry. When he left in 1992 to serve in Greenville, South Carolina, Nancy and Carl Hollar and Tony Hamby served as Youth Advisors. During this time the youth attended Super Summer Camp at Charleston Southern University.

Ed Foskey became the Minister of Education and Youth in July of 1993. His wife, Sherry, assisted in reinstating Children's Worship as well as accompanying on youth events. Ed and Sherry left WHBC in August of 1995 to serve in Fort Myers, Florida.

In May of 1996, Rev. Varner retired, and he and Mrs. Varner moved to Virginia. David Hutchins came to our church as Music Director and Youth Minister just before Rev. Grose rejoined our staff as Interim Pastor. Rev. Grose resigned in November 1996 due to health reasons, and Rev. E. B. Elmore joined our staff the following Sunday. He was named as part-time Associate Pastor in June of 1997.

Rev. Michael Staton began his ministry at WHBC on March 23, 1997, having come from a church in Randleman, NC. His wife, Donna, was our pianist and began teaching piano to several children in the church. They had two children, Leah and Steven. In August 1997 Steven announced his call into the ministry.

Miss Isabelle Hardin offered her house for sale to WHBC in 2002. Although not having been a member, she had close ties to many former and present members. The church purchased the property – 51 12th St. NW – on April 1, 2002, for $45,000 and made renovations in order to rent the house.

Rev. Elmore had been hired to be our Senior Associate Pastor in October 1999. On May 21, 2000, WHBC honored him on the occasion of his retirement from the Civil Air Patrol. After Rev. Staton resigned in 2003 to pastor First Baptist Church, Cherryville, NC, Rev. Elmore and several interim pastors ~ the Reverends Fred Thompson, William A. Bell, James Hester, Mike Riley, and J. T. Cline ~ contributed much in bridging the gap between pastors. Two years later, on April 17, 2005, Rev. Elmore was given the title "Pastor Emeritus" and a special plaque. He served for six and one-half years and retired in February of 2006.

Joining the staff in July 2000 was James Dellinger as Music Director. His wife, Elizabeth, came as organist a year later. Karen Brackett began playing the piano at WHBC in August 2003, completing a team of talented, accomplished musicians.

In July 2005 Rev. Scott Frady was called to WHBC, bringing with him his wife, Cindy, and children, Jeremy and Joy. Pastor Scott was born in 1970 in Charlotte, NC. He graduated from Columbia International University, Columbia, SC, in 1992. He and Cindy taught Bible classes at Tianjin International School in China from 1994 until 1997. They returned to the states, and he finished his studies at Columbia Biblical Seminary. From 1999 until 2005 he was a teacher for Spartanburg County Christian Release Time. He was also Youth Pastor at Bethany Baptist Church in Spartanburg, SC, from 2000 to 2005.

Associate Pastor Robert G. Kaylor was hired in December 2006. He graduated from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion, Youth Ministry major. His most recent ministry was as Associate/Youth Pastor at Warlick's Baptist Church, Connelly Springs, NC, followed by Guys' Staff Coordinator at South Mountain Baptist Camp. He and his wife, Janna, make their home in the church's house across the street from the church ~ 51 12th St. NW.

As of 2007 WHBC owns property on all four corners of Main Avenue Drive and 12th Street NW. There is a total of nine parcels - church building, parsonage, associate pastor's house, two rental houses, two parking lots (one of which is comprised of two parcels), and one vacant lot. The 2007 Catawba County property tax valuation of all the properties totaled $2,112,900. There has not been a recent appraisal of the properties.

1992
Cathy Morris with Blake Gantt, John Morris, Abbey Starnes, Cherish Simpson

Willing Workers Class, late 90's
Fr. (L-R) Margaret Spencer, Gladys Bruner, Mary Huffman, Mabel Early; back: Lucille Lail, Velma Buchanan, Betty Lail, Beulah Mae Detter, Marjorie Barkley

Willing Workers Class - Mid 90's
(L-R) Bertie Teague, Willene Goans, Minnie Wike, Margaret Spencer, teacher, Mamie Ogle, Louise Smith, Nihla Truett Bumgarner, Velma Buchanan, Mary Hansel, Lula Stallings

Mother-Daughter Banquet - mid 90's
(L-R) Barbara Williams, Betty Lail, Becky Lail, Julie Lail

Mother-Daughter Banquet - mid 90's
(L-R) Susie Champion, Erin & Cathy Morris, Ruth Morris, Gladys Brown; back: Kaitlyn & Dana Clontz, holding Kennedy, Abbey Starnes

Mother-Daughter Banquet - mid 90's
(L-R) Dickie Burton, Joey Franklin, Mark Jackson, Rick Sigmon, George Hemphill, Steve Lail, Rev. Mike Staton, Leonard Greenhill; back: Kenny Clontz, Bob King

Joni Rozzelle's Class - 1991
Fr. (L-R) Shirley McGaha, Betty Huffman, Carolyn Huffman, Joni, Dot Walters, Jeannette McRary; back: Fuschia Hamby, Betty Rhoney, Ethel Smith, Juanita Bolick, Mary Ann Bowman, Bobbie Mull, Judy Mullinax

1992
Fr. (L-R) Josh Williams, Erin Morris, Jacob Rustin, Lindsay Gantt, Channing Sigmon; back: Trey Hamby, James Bame, Josh Bumgarner, Josh Rustin

1995 Mother-Daughter Banquet
Foreground: Joni Rozzelle; left: Betty Reep; middle table: Linda Martin, Alicia Crump, Samantha and Shannon Cansler, Marie Franklin, Lee Jackson, Sue Franklin, Pauline Reed, Marjorie Barkley, Sharon Crump; right table: Kelly, Teresa & Shirley McGaha, Brooke & Jan Sumter

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - 2000
(L-R) Cole Parlier, Madelaine Robinson, Zachary Childers, Caroline Huffman, Carson Freeman, Dakota Moore, Rodney Coone, Jeremy Shook; (back) leaders Lynn Baker, Marie Huffman, Bobbie Ward

2005 rafting trip

(L-R) Del Starnes, John Morris, Josh Pierce, Nick Woods, Alyssa Starnes

Left, clock-wise: Erin Morris, Terence Cansler, Barry Sparks, Abbey Starnes, Samantha Cansler

Front (L-R) Alyssa Starnes, Josh Pierce, Abbey Starnes, Bailey Cansler, Erin Morris; back: John Morris, Samantha Cansler

Walk America - mid 90's
Fr. (L-R) Kaitlyn Clontz, Abbey Starnes, Rebecca Kerr, Carolyn Hollar; back: Miranda Robinson, Dana Clontz, Cindy Starnes

Deacons - 2001

Fr. (L-R) Steve Lail, Dean Reed, Robert McGaha, James Clay; 2nd: Roger Kerr, Danny Hildebran, Rick Ward, Rick Sigmon, Butch Younce; 3rd: Harold Lail, George Hemphill, John Link, Don Smith, Bob King, Gary Robinson; back: Keith Mull, Lloyd "Bud" Sipe, Tommy Hamby, Del Starnes, Carl Hollar

VBS - 2001

Fr: Gina & Chris Hyatt; 2nd: Rachel Chapman, ? , Bailey Cansler, Benjamin Huffman; 3rd: Marie Huffman, ?, Sierra Jackson, Lee Jackson; 4th: BreAna Hoyle, Caroline Huffman, Luke Chapman, Zachary Sparks, Dakota Moore, Adam Hendrix; 5th: Abbey Parlier, Zachary Childers, Josh Eckenrod, Logan Ward; back: Cole Parlier, Sarah Pierce, Alexis Franklin, Natalie Frankel, Kurtis Nelson, Madelaine Robinson, Carson Freeman, Alicia Crump Huckabee

Picnic - July 16, 2006

Butch Younce (left) and Ron Whaley

(L-R) Dick Adams, John Link, Butch Martin

Face painting
(L-R) Virginia Whaley, Sarah & Alex Tunstall, Shannon Cansler, Rita Franklin, Lynn Tunstall, Brad Whaley

(L-R) Harold Lail, Rev. Elmore, B. R. "Buck" Spencer, Don Smith

Jeremy, Cindy, Pastor Scott & Joy Frady

Bingo with Judy Burns
(L-R) Pat Patneaude , Cora Lee Sweeney, Alice Brown, Joni Rozzelle, Bobbie & Keith Mull, Lorene Osborn

Homecoming - September 24, 2006

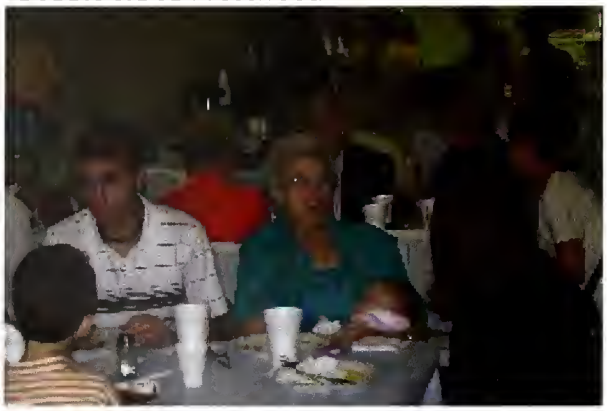
Rev. Fred Thompson,
Guest Speaker, and wife, Marie

(L-R) Jim & Elizabeth Dellinger,
Roger & Melinda Kerr

James Clay, Cora Lee Sweeney, Helen Cater

(L-R) Bob & Lucille King, Lorrayne Clark,
Bobbie & Bob Prestwood

(L-R) Dean Reed, Jackie Isenhour Little, Nancy & Carl Hollar, Jeanette & Wiley McRary



Aaron Smith, Helen Kerr w/Kylie Smith,
Rebecca Kerr Smith

Back, clockwise: Jason, Jon, David,
Betty, Kayla, & Zack Reep

90th Anniversary Celebration

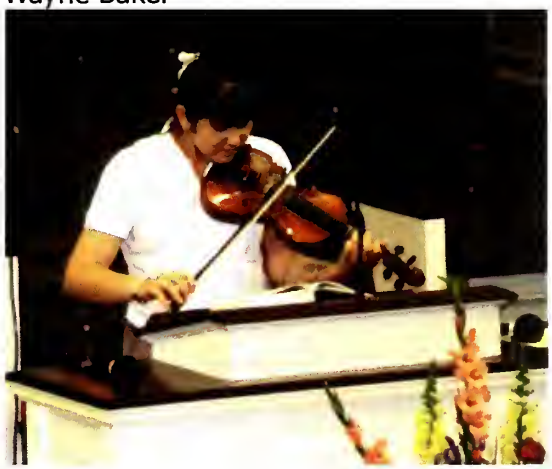
WHBC celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a special service on May 18, 1997. Rev. Tom M. Freeman, who was brought up and ordained at WHBC, was the guest speaker. The afternoon services included former staff members and pastors who were ordained here. Special music, scriptures, and testimonies were also provided.

A 90th Anniversary history booklet and cookbook were printed to commemorate the year's celebration.

George Hemphill (left) and Jeffrey Marlow

(L-R) Del Starnes, Dale Propst, Keith Mull, Wayne Baker

Franklin sisters: (L-R) Marie Huffman, Lee Jackson, Beverly Curtis



Jessica Rhyne

(Left) Carl Hollar; others include Carole Teague, Bessie Robinson, Helen Cater, Mildred Price, Doris Price

The Lord's Day, May 18,1997

90th Anniversary

Morning Worship Service **11:00 a.m.**

Preparation for Praise and Worship

Prelude — Marie Laughter
A Time of Quiet Worship
Choral Call to Worship — Sanctuary Choir
Surely The Presence
Invocation
Welcome & Church Ministry
Hymn 2 *Holy, Holy, Holy*
Fellowship
Chorus 334 *Chorus of Blessed Assurance*
Chorus It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others,
He'll do for you. With arms wide open, He'll pardon you,
It is no secret what God can do.
Prayer

Worship Through Giving

Hymn 54 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
Offertory Prayer
Offertory — Marie Laughter

Worship Through Proclamation

Children's Church — Nancy Hollar
Scripture
Choral Worship — Sanctuary Choir
God Leads Us Along
Sermon — Rev. Tom Freeman
The Mark of A great Church

Worship Through Dedication of Life

Invitation To Christian Discipleship
Hymn 294 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*
Receiving Those Who Respond
Benediction
Organ Postlude — Marie Laughter

We welcome you to West Hickory Baptist Church on this Lord's Day. To our visitors we extend a most special and cordial welcome.

The Lord's Day May 18. 1997

90th Anniversary Celebration

2:00 p.m.

Prelude .....Nancy Isenhour and Marie Laughter
My God and I
Opening Prayer.....Jeff Marlow

Welcome to all member and guests.....George Hemphill
50 year members

A Voice from Wayne Varner

A Word from Nancy Taylor

Marie Laughter & Nancy Isenhour.....*Surely Goodness and Mercy*

Congregational Song.....*When We All Get to Heaven*

Pastor Staton ..... Magic

Keith Mull Group.....
Wayne Baker, Wiley McRary, Dale Propst, Del Starnes
The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows

Violin Solo .....Carol Hemphill
Medley

David & Jeannie Hutchins .....Duet
Do you Know?

Larry Griffin..... Solo
In Christ Alone

Erin Morris.....Piano Solo
Jesus Loves Me

Brass Ensemble.....with Donna Staton at the Piano
Rusty Bunton, Steve Shumaker, Del Starnes, Wayne Kates
Medley

Congregational Song..... *There Shall be Showers of Blessings*
(Rev. Fritz Hemphill's favorite song)

David and Nancy Rozzelle.....Duet
Thank You
Pamela and Stephie Kates will do sign language for the chorus
Charity

Ladies Ensemble.....Beverly Curtis, Marie Huffman, Lee Jackson
Praise the Lord, and All That is Within

Jessica Rhyne.....Violin Solo
Morning Has Broken
Ben Rowe.....Solo
His Strength is Perfect

David and Christi Williams..... Duet
Household of Faith

Closing Prayer by Robin Rowe

Congregational Song .....*Blest Be the Tie*

Centennial Celebration

May 6, 2007, was a great day at WHBC in celebration of its Centennial. Months of preparation culminated in a day of homecoming of former members, friends, and families who gathered with members to reminisce, fellowship, and – most importantly – to worship and praise God.

Reverend Ben Rowe was the guest speaker at the morning service. He grew up in the Hickory area, went to West Hickory Baptist Church, and was a part-time Minister of Youth there from 1982 to 1983. Ben graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Christian Education, and in 1986 received his Masters of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was licensed as Minister of Youth and Education in the spring of 1986 and ordained in May 1986 at WHBC.

Ben served as Associate Pastor for Abbott's Creek Baptist Church in High Point, North Carolina, from January 1986 to November 1990. He was called to the position of Associate Pastor and Minister of Education and Youth for Lakeview Baptist Church in November 1990. Beginning January 1993, Ben served as Lakeview's Interim Pastor and answered the call to be their Senior Pastor on August 29, 1993. He served as Associational Youth Minister of Theron Rankin Baptist Association from 1991-92, as well as its Moderator in 2003-04. Ben is married to Rebecca and has three sons, Justus, Matthew, and Ryan, and one daughter, Alexia.

The personal statement of Rev. Rowe (pictured at right) is "Jesus said, '*If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself.*' That I would lift up Jesus so that others could see Him, is my life's aim."

Other former members and ordained persons who participated were: the Reverands E. B. Elmore, Robin Rowe, Duane Kuykendall, Mike Williams, Rob Craig, and of course, Pastor Scott Frady. Honored guests attending who had entered religious vocations included Helen Cater, Louis Robinson, the Reverends John Sigmon, Ralph Hefner, Jr. and Jeffrey Marlow.

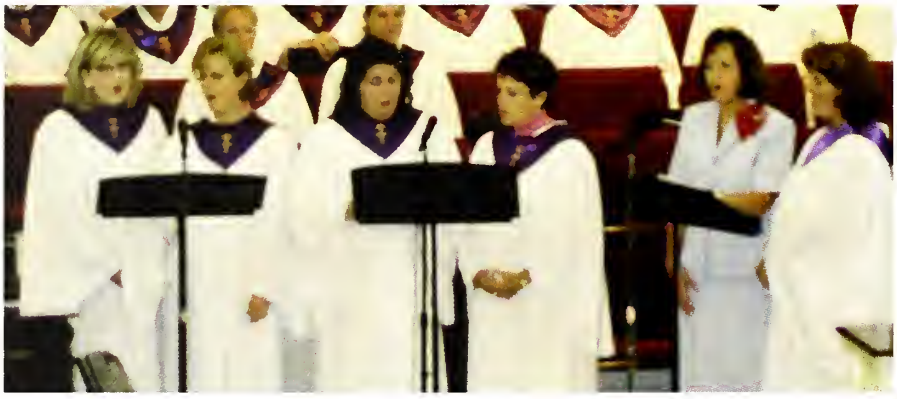
John Link led the children's time (at left) and presented a brief history of the church, followed by recognition of charter member descendants. After the morning worship service, a covered dish lunch was served. Angela Whaley, the kitchen committee, and others helped make that a very memorable part of the day. People made their way outside for a playground dedication at 1:30 P. M., which was to honor the memory of Hazel Keller.

The day's events concluded with a 2:00 P. M. service of singing, skits, and remembrances. Marie Franklin Huffman and Lee Franklin Jackson performed in skits, orchestrated by Amy Freeman, as two elderly ladies rocking on the "porch," recalling their days at WHBC. The Heritage Ensemble sang a "Precious Memories" medley which included a verse written and sung by Larry Isenhour. The words are as follows:

"Loving teachers, inspired preachers ~ blessed mem'ries of our past.
Faithful members of West Hick'ry ~ saints whose trust in God was cast.
Thanks, West Hick'ry, for your hist'ry ~ souls were saved and lives made whole.
Looking backward, going forward ~ lead us to our heavn'ly goal."

A time of remembrance and thanks was held when Pastor Frady took a microphone throughout the congregation, giving individuals the opportunity to voice their appreciation for someone who had blessed them. It was truly felt that, as in the words of the last hymn sung: "We are One in the Bond of Love."

Morning Worship Service - May 6, 2007



"In His Name"
(L-R) Connie Burton, Cynthia Amicone, Jan Sumter, Melinda Kerr, Karen Brackett, Marie Huffman

Rev. Duane Kuykendall

Rev. Ralph Hefner, Jr. and wife, Anita

Rev. Mike Williams

Rev. Rob Craig

Faith Thomas Baker (left)
and Barbara Link Huggins

Bobby, Virginia, and Suzanne Carswell

At right: Lynn and Sarah Tunstall; back: Becky Estes w/granddaughter, Rachel Estes; Beth Murphree

Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Marlow (Janice)

Foreground: Lydia and Alicia Huckabee; 2nd table: Alice Rowe Franklin, Jim Franklin, Carolyn Rowe

(L-R) Earlene Carrier, Sue Buchanan, Priscilla Beaver Hilgendorf, Joe Compton

The McGahas:
Robert, Kenneth, Bobby, Shirley

(L-R) Bebe Reid Leitch, Linda Barkley Martin, Dianne Lutz Huffman

May 6, 2007 - 2:00 P. M. Service

Jim Dellinger

Karen and Gary Brackett

"Sadie & Bessie Lee"
Marie Huffman (left) and Lee Jackson

Heritage Ensemble
(L-R) Linda Hayes, Jerry Sipe, Bobbie Mull, Alice Brown, Lucille King, David Rowe, Larry Isenhour

Foreground, L-R: Bebe Reid Leitch, Nancy Isenhour,
Faye Moore Myers, Catherine Moore

Jan Sumter

Cindy & Pastor Scott Frady

Robin, David, and Ben Rowe

David and Barbara Bolin Williams

Rev. John Sigmon

Don and Ethel Smith

Dick Adams at left, standing; Pastor Frady; front: Frances Robinson, Beth Murphree; back: Tommy Hamby

West Hickory Baptist Church 100th Anniversary
May 6, 2007 10:30 a.m.

Prelude. . . . . Organ

Welcome. . . . . .Rev. Scott Frady

Invocation. . . . . Rev. E. B. Elmore

Recognition of Guests. . . . . Rev. Scott Frady

Call to Worship "He Is Lord". . . . . .Choir

Hymn #54 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". . . . . .Congregation

Offertory Prayer. . . . . .Rev. Robin Rowe

Offertory "I Bowed On My Knees and Cried, 'Holy!'". . . . . .In His Name

Proclamation – Theron Rankin Baptist Association. . . . . Rev. Duane Kuykendall

Children's Message. . . . . .John Link
(Recognition of Charter Members' Families)

Choral Offering "The Savior Medley". . . . . Choir

Scripture Reading. . . . . .Rev. Mike Williams
Numbers 13:25-14:3 (Pew Bible Page 148)

Introduction of Speaker. . . . . Rev. Scott Frady

Message "Give Me This Mountain". . . . . Rev. Ben Rowe
Scripture Joshua 14:6-15 (Pew Bible Pages 228/229)

Invitational Hymn #308 "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior". . . . . .

Benediction. . . . . Rev. Rob Craig

Postlude. . . . . .Organ

The Lord's Day May 6, 2007
West Hickory Baptist Church 100th Anniversary
2:00 p.m.

Church Anniversary
1907 - 2007

Welcome & Opening Prayer. . . . . Rev. Rob Kaylor

"Find Us Faithful". . . . . .Karen & Gary Brackett

Recognition of Guests. . . . . Rev. Scott Frady

"Without Him". . . . . .Rev. Ben Rowe, Rev. Robin Rowe & David Rowe

Skit I. . . . . Marie Huffman, Lee Jackson

"Precious Memories" - Medley. . . . . Heritage Ensemble
Alice Brown, Linda Hayes, Lucille King, Bobbie Mull, Jerry Sipe, Larry Isenhour and David Rowe

Hymn #4 "To God Be The Glory". . . . . Congregation

Proclamation. . . . . .

"All The Way My Savior Leads Me". . . . . .Elizabeth & Jim Dellinger
Piano/Violin

Skit II. . . . . Marie Huffman, Lee Jackson

"Jesus Will Still Be There". . . . . .Cindy & Rev. Scott Frady

"Thank You". . . . . Jan Sumter

Remarks. . . . . .Rev. Scott Frady

Prayer. . . . . Rev. Mike Williams

Benediction "We Are One In The Bond of Love". . . . . .Congregation

Reflections of our Past

- Tom Freeman was ordained at WHBC in September of1939.
- In September of 1940, a church library was established with Mildred Cater serving as Librarian.
- On January 8, 1941, the church voted to establish a Vacation Bible School program for children upon the completion of the school year.
- On January 7, 1942, they voted to get bulletins out weekly.
- February 4, 1942, the church agreed to observe "eastern daylight war time."
- April 8, 1942, marked the purchase of the first mimeograph machine.
- On December 1, 1945, they voted to have "White Christmas" (ingathering of food items for the needy).
- On August 21, 1947, the first "Church Bell" was printed and mailed to each church family. The cost to mail this bulletin was one cent in 1949. This weekly publication continues now, 60 years later.
- On July 9, 1944, the church requested offerings for the "Emergency Hospital for Polio." Polio outbreaks occurred in 1948 and 1953. These outbreaks involved the banning of children younger than 16 years of age from going into public places. WHBC children were instructed to listen to their Sunday School message on the radio station WHKY at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The polio outbreak affected several children from WHBC, including Becky Shell Woods, Barbara Cannon Clodfelter, and Terry Spencer.
- In 1949 there was a challenge to join the "Forty-Nine Club" (be present in Sunday School for 49 Sundays).
- New phone number for church office, Dec. 1950: 29886
- Reported in December 1950: Adgar Campbell was hired as choir director at $25 per month; Peggy Jarmon, financial secretary, at $5 per week, and Helen Cater, secretary, at $10 per week.
- On February 25, 1951 (day of the formal opening of Adult "B" building), Jimmy Andrews of Newton took photos of Sunday School classes; those were available later for purchase.
- March 20, 1951 – the first wedding ceremony was held in the new Adult building, temporary sanctuary. This was the marriage of Doris Caldwell, daughter of N. E. Caldwell, to Walter Hipp, Jr.
- On April 15, 1951, the first baptisms in the new Adult Building temporary sanctuary numbered fifty-one.
- In 1951 the City of Hickory changed street names. The previous church address had been 2303 11th Avenue.
- Larry Penley was ordained at WHBC on June 14, 1953. He was called to pastor Mt. Grove Baptist Church in Hickory.
- On February 27, 1955, the first baptisms occurred in the new sanctuary. The newly baptized members were Sheila Powell, Dennis Bruner, Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Sigmon, and their son, Richard Sigmon.
- John Sigmon was licensed to preach on January 2, 1957.
- On January 23, 1957, WHBC had over 500 members and guests attend Sunday School for 22 consecutive weeks.
- In March 1958, at the Spring Banquet for intermediate & young people, Shirley Killian & Dickie Matheson were crowned "Queen" and "King."
- Mr. W. T. Powell and his brother J. D. gave over $400 as the beginning of "Memorial Loan Fund" for students who needed help in September of 1959.
- In 1962 Michael Woody received his God and Country Award of Scouting at WHBC, presented to him by Rev. Frank Thomas.

- In 1970 chimes were donated to the church in memory of Margaret Abee by her husband, Hugh Abee, family and friends.
- On June 3, 1973, was a Carillons Dedication. They were given in memory of Hugh H. Abee by family and friends.
- On October 5, 1975, several church members participated in a bicycle ride from Conover to Hickory on the new Interstate 40 (before it opened through Hickory).
- In 1975 a New Member Orientation Class was formed and taught by Alice Rowe. Lucille King began teaching this class in 1986 and after several years, Jonie Rozzelle followed as teacher.
- An organ fund was started March 1976. The Joanne Gantt family initiated the fund in memory of husband and father, Albert "Foo" Gantt.
- On June 27, 1976, in conjunction with the nation's 200th birthday, the church hosted "Ole Fashion Day." The festivities included the display of old photographs, a picnic, a special afternoon service, and special singing and devotions. Members and guests were encouraged to wear clothing dating back over the past 200 years.
- Beginning on February 5, 1978, the morning worship service began broadcasting on WXRC-FM. This continued until 1984.
- The Constitution & By-Laws were adopted July 30, 1978 (first proposed 3/10/76).
- A new organ and sound system were installed in 1979. The church membership had now reached 1,000 and Sunday School enrollment was more than 700.
- In June 1980 WHBC had the honor of Vance Havner leading its revival services.
- In 1984 Jonie Rozzelle, with the assistance of her daughter Cindy Kates, began a Children's Worship with an average of 12 children each Sunday.
- In May 1985, the old organ in the lower sanctuary was donated to the Perry Ellis Crusade and used in school to train evangelists and throughout Campinas, Brazil, for crusades.
- Robin Rowe was ordained February 5, 1984.
- Ben Rowe was ordained May 1986.
- Philip McGaha was ordained at WHBC, November 5, 1989.
- The first computer was purchased in 1994 at a cost of $4,924, which included software, two printers, central PC and installation.
- In June 1997 church member Corey Rhyne constructed a Prayer Garden on the north side of the church as his Eagle Scout project. Corey received his Eagle Scout Badge in December of 1997 at a ceremony at WHBC. This project was dedicated to the honor of his mother, Cathie Rhyne; she was suffering from terminal cancer, but was able to attend the service. She died the next month.
- In April 1999 WHBC adopted a cabin, named Hope Haven, at South Mountain Baptist Camp.
- A life-size manger scene was constructed and erected in December 2001 by Harold and Steve Lail.
- In February 2004 WHBC members gave $1,160 to the Tsunami relief efforts.
- After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, WHBC raised $10,540 and donated the monies to N. C. Baptist Men for the Gulf area's relief.
- On November 1, 2006, the church cornerstone was opened and its contents examined and displayed in observance of the church's Centennial. As of this writing, the church plans to again open the cornerstone and replace the items, as well as additional things pertaining to the Centennial celebration. This will be in September 2007, the fifty-third anniversary of the original cornerstone laying in 1954.
- In commemoration of the church's 100th Anniversary, a cookbook of members' favorite recipes was compiled by Judy Burns, assisted by Sandy Knuckles and Alice Brown. This book was professionally printed, and distributed in May of 2007.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

For the young and old, programs to enlighten and enhance growing together in our Christian faith have been implemented since the early years of West Hickory Baptist Church. From mission groups, weekly Wednesday night suppers, seniors' activities, and sports, we have projected the fact that we like to eat, play, sing, and fellowship as we serve the Lord!

WMU

Founded in 1888, Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention that seeks to train adults, youth, children and preschoolers with missions education to become involved in the mission of God. In 1891 North Carolina joined other state unions in the Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. The North Carolina WMU organized Sunbeam bands to teach children in 1896, the Young Woman's Auxiliary for teenagers in 1906, Royal Ambassadors for boys in 1911, and Girls' Auxiliaries for pre-teens in 1913. These organizations were in addition to the adult Woman's societies that had been in existence in Baptist churches since 1815.

The earliest mention of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) at WHBC was of the delegates to the Associational W. M. S. meeting at First Baptist Church in 1912. They were Mrs. Henry Burch and Mrs. Knouse. There were no WHBC officers listed for WMS in any associational minutes until 1930, when Mrs. C. R. Hahn was named as being the president.

In 1915 West Hickory Baptist Church ladies assisted Penelope Baptist Church in organizing the Women's Missionary Program, and in 1922 organized the first WMU at Mt. Grove Baptist Church. According to *A History of Mt. Grove Baptist Church*, October 1981, Katie Link, mother of John Link (a member of WHBC), was one of Mt. Grove's first WMU presidents.

Business Woman's Circles (B.W.C.) were formed at WHBC in 1949 as part of the Women's Missionary Society.

Past and present leaders of WMU are listed on page 79. WHBC's organization is now named Women On Missions and is led by Linda Hayes. Various projects undertaken by the group have included Red Cross blood drives; bazaar & yard sale fundraiser for Annie Armstrong Easter offering; and spaghetti supper fundraiser in August 2006 for Stephanie Kates (granddaughter of Joni & Tal Rozzelle), a missions worker in Puerto Rico. (See pictures below.)

Nancy Franklin (L) & Virginia Carswell

Jan Sumter (L) & Linda Hayes

(L-R) Beulah Detter, Marjorie Barkley, Alma Hamilton, Martha Thomas, Carole Teague

(L-R) Nancy Hollar, Kathy Younce, Judy Burns, Angela Whaley, Frances Robinson, Linda Martin

Young Woman's Auxiliary (Y.W.A.'s)

This group for teenagers was noted as being organized in 1935. The first auxiliary was named in honor of Elizabeth Campbell, a young Christian woman who taught their first study course and helped them to organize. Per associational minutes of the year 1936, Mrs. W. W. Marr was its leader, followed by Selma Hicks. In 1951 Mrs. Tom Shell and Mrs. A. E. Gabbard were leaders of the group, then called Intermediate GA's.

YWA's - 1940's - Pantomime "O Zion Haste"
(in old brick church sanctuary)
Mildred Cater Ellenberg, Peggy Jarman Jones, Helen Cater, Mildred Winkler Penley, Junie Rector Honeycutt (kneeling)

1952
Bottom (L-R) Ann Sigmon Page, Ramona Yoder, Jolene Brannock; back: Revonda Robinson Wittenberg, Doris Hollar Price, ?, Betty Surratt

YWA'S at Ridgecrest - early 40's
Fr. (L-R) Bernice Cater, Polly Abernethy, Inez Starnes (Brown); back: Mackey Tallent (Lynch), Mildred Winkler (Penley), Kathryn Gabbard (Bass), Peggy Jarman (Jones), Margaret Reed (Spencer)

Girl's Auxiliary (G.A.'s)

GA® is a Baptist missions organization for girls in grades one through six. At WHBC GA's were organized in 1936, as noted in the South Fork Association Meeting minutes of that year. The first leader was Junie Rector. Other early leaders were Selma Hicks, Mrs. Edgar "Bill" Pierce, Hazel Pierce, Ethel Haynes, Doris Hollar (Price), Doris Hemphill, Nihla Truett, Betty Dula, and Marcella Buchanan. Recent leaders have included Linda Hayes, Cindi Morrison, Jan Sumter, Cathy Morris, and presently, Crystal Dellinger and Cindy Starnes. Girls meet and work on projects that earn for them badges and sashes, which are presented in an annual recognition service. In early years the ceremonies were quite formal, called "Coronation Services," and girls were presented with a number of different awards, from a plain felt octagon-shaped badge for achieving "Maiden," to the highest award – Queen Regent. Present day recognition services are more informal, but nonetheless, very meaningful.

1940's Intermediate GA's

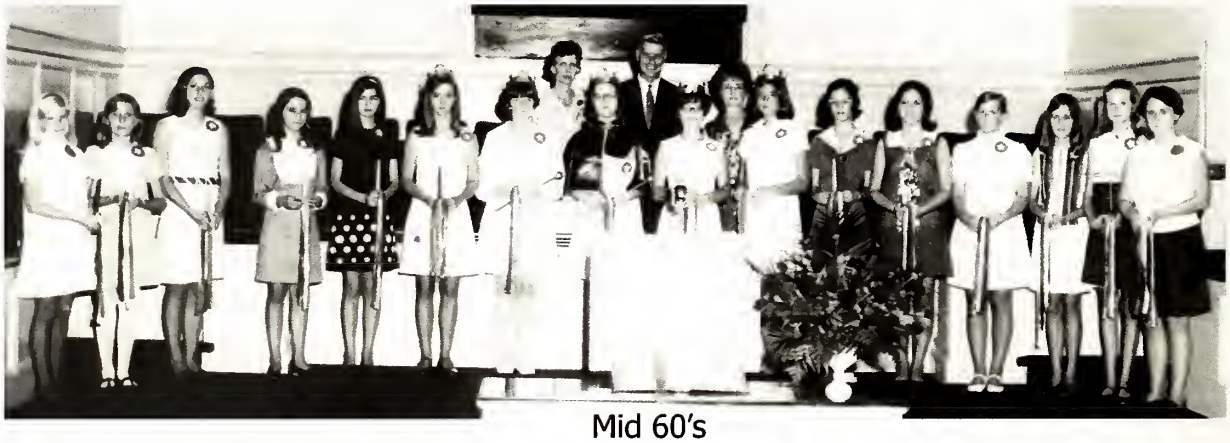
Fr. row (L-R) Hilda Clay (Taylor), Sue Hollar, Jeanette Shell, Betty Buff, Ralph Smith
2nd row: Ethel Haynes, Wanda Reed, Jeanette Bruner, Mary Saunders, Alice Sherrill (Brown), Edith Cater, Margaret Saunders, Becky Shell (Woods), Virginia Singleton
Back: Mildred Cater, Mary Ellen Young, Jackie Isenhour, Dot Mull, Betty Jane Ward, Jean Owens, ? , Lorene Smith, Joanne Rhyne, Martha Taylor, Nancy Brown, Helen Sherrill, Mrs. Fritz Hemphill

1958

Fr. (L-R) Rick Hemphill, Terry Spencer, Paulette Spencer, Elizabeth Hegenbart, Mike Williams, Jimmy Cater, Sharon Sipe, Sharon Lail; (back) Vera Sutherland, Linda Barkley, Jean Price, Brenda Nelson, Faye Moore, Brenda Shuford, Nancy Moore, Linda McDaniels, Elizabeth Steelman, Delores Pritchard, Penny Martin, Millie Price, Diane Deal, Dianne Bruner

1961

Fr. (L-R) Greg Huffman, Audrey Huffman, ? , Regina Deal; back: Mary Jo Walters, Doris Benfield, ? , Marcella Yoder, Judy Barkley, Pat Barkley, Mrs. Bernice Thomas, Nancy Link, Diane Deal, Janice Gantt, Betty Dula, Janice Truett, Sharon Cannon, Cheryl Ann Walters, Beverly Franklin, Anita McDaniel



Mid 60's

(L-R) Cindy Price, Tammy Sipe, Tammy Rowe, ? , Nita Heavner, Pam Baird, Renee Buchanan, Kathy Price, Paulette Spencer, Sharon Sipe, Teresa Hopper, Susan Starnes, Lynne Fox, Suzanne Carswell, Donna Powell, Debbie Hallman; back: Betty Dula, leader, Rev. Frank Thomas

1962

Back (L-R) Pat Barkley, Judy Barkley, ? , Beverly Franklin, ? , ? , Sharon Cannon, Janice Truett;
Fr: ?, Walls, Karen Caldwell, Julie Dula, Beverly Walls, Kathy Price, Sandra Huffman, Judy Ward

GA Trip-Fruitland 1968

Fr. (L-R) Audrey Huffman, Renee Buchanan, Paulette Spencer, Tammy Rowe, Sharon Sipe,
back: Teresa Hopper, Debbie Hallman, Lynn Fox

1990

Fr. (L-R) Sylvia Bame, Jessica Rhyne, Ashley Simpson, Stacey Robinson; back: Ashley Allen, Laura Darnell, Brooke Sumter, Mandi Morrison

1991

Fr. (L-R) Ashley Simpson, Stacey Robinson, ?, Sylvia Bame, Kara Sumter; back: Jessica Rhyne, Linda Hayes, Brooke Sumter, Laura Darnell, Mandi Morrison, Ashley Allen

2006 GA Recognition Service

Fr. (L-R) Sarah Pierce, Bailey Cansler, Kaylee Baker, Christina Hart; back: Jaylon Moore, Journey Reed, Caroline Huffman, Abbey Parlier, Sierra Jackson; leaders: left, Cindy Price, and Cathy Morris

MISSION FRIENDS

West Hickory Baptist Church has a very active program for children 2 to 5 years old that meets weekly. Each month a different missionary is studied – the beginning of children being taught about foreign and home missions. They learn the importance of setting aside time daily to pray for missions and to take part in mission projects. Weekly curriculum consists of a mission story, special prayer time, and working on crafts. They are taught a different Bible verse each week and are rewarded for learning that verse.

Some of the projects Mission Friends do include making cards for the sick, shut-ins, hospitalized, and nursing homes. Quarterly projects have consisted of making napkin rings, place cards with Bible verses to take to nursing homes on special occasions, and collecting can goods, fruit, and cookies for shut-ins or needy people. On some of those visits, short programs have been given with the children singing favorite songs for that person. A special time for all has been spent singing Christmas carols and having sentence prayers before leaving.

Mission Friends take up money for Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings each year. This teaches the children that they are a special part in continuing missions all over the world. Their motto is "We are Home Missionaries," and the Bible verse is "Pray for One Another" – James 5:16.

(L-R) Sarah & Alex Tunstall, Megan Murphree, Jeremy Frady

2001

Fr. clock-wise: Carson Freeman, Bailey Cansler, Nancy Hollar, Madelaine Robinson, Becky Lail, Georgia Hemphill, Sarah Costner, Caroline Huffman, Sarah Pierce, Benjamin Huffman, Sierra Jackson

2007

Fr. (L-R) Beth Murphree, Jacob Dellinger, Lydia Huckabee, Clayton Parton, Savannah Huckabee
2nd: Zack Reep, Alex Tunstall, Jeremy Frady, Joy Frady, Nancy Hollar; back: Lynn Tunstall

BROTHERHOOD/BAPTIST MEN

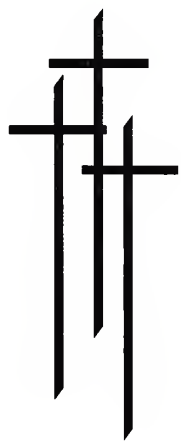
The earliest records available on the Brotherhood at WHBC show that there were fifteen members in 1943. In minutes dated January 15, 1945, they voted for the membership to give $1 at each meeting for the purpose of applying on the new church in whatever area the Brotherhood saw fit – "most likely the windows." Membership in 1945 included the following:

R. C. Shearin, Pastor
Jimmie Smith
Walter Sherrill
N. E. Caldwell
George Page
Earl Odum
C. .O. Taylor
J. D. Carswell
O. F. Annas
J. A. McCraine
C. P. Abernethy
J. A. Winkler
June Teague
J. R. Walls, Pres.
Charles Riley
A. E. Gabbard
T. C. Byers
U. S. Huffman
Tate Powell
Ed Powell
Lloyd Pierce
Filo Miller
Jeffie Marlow
J. C. Ward
Lloyd Young

Records indicate that the Brotherhood business meetings centered around the growth of a strong church. At their meeting in February 1947, they voted to sponsor the R.A.'s and to support them out of the Brotherhood treasury.

The June 1947 meeting found them voting to financially support the softball team and in September, to provide the first grade of Viewmont School with an orange drink during recess for two months. Their contributions at that meeting were: softball team ~ $20.60; Viewmont School ~ $10.00; and RA's ~ $30.25.

In the mid 1990's, the organization became active again under the name Baptist Men, and Joey Franklin is its current leader. They have undertaken projects in areas of clean-up and construction for members and non-members alike.



Royal Ambassadors (RA's)

The earliest record of an RA organization at WHBC was in the South Fork Associational minutes of 1936, which listed Mrs. W. S. Abernethy as its leader, and then in 1937 and 1938, Mrs. W. W. Marr. Ray Rowell and Dick Adams worked with them in the 50's. In 1966 there were two chapters: Crusaders for ages 9-11, led by Dick Adams & Bill Bowman; and Pioneer Chapter for ages 12-14, led by Dub Pittman. These continued to be active into the 70's, aided by Tony Truett and Roy Huffman.

More recent leaders included James Price, Del Starnes, Larry Griffin, and at this writing, they are led by Brian Rhoney and Mel Huffman.

RA Pinewood Derby - 1970
Back,(L-R) Roy Huffman, Dick Adams, Bill Bowman; Blaine Aldridge, Kenneth McGaha, Mark Bowman, ?

1975 Pinewood Derby
(L-R) Philip McGaha, Bobby McGaha, Wayne Sigmon, Tony Hamby, Charles Grove

RA Camping Trip - 1970's
Left: James Price, Ben Rowe

1980's
L-R) Bruce Early, Philip McGaha, Tony Hamby; (Clarence Early, back)

RA's Tubing - 1980's
Left: Chad Hayes, ? , Del Starnes, Ricky Cook, ? , Philip McGaha, Bruce Early

Mid 80's tubing trip: Del Starnes (back) and Jon Reep

RA's - 2005

Fr. (L-R) Luke Rhoney, Benjamin Huffman, Clay Dellinger, Josh Eckenrod;
back: Brian Rhoney, leader, Carson Freeman, Zac Sparks, Jake Rhoney, Sean Rhoney, Cole Rhoney, Mel Huffman, leader

TRIPLE L's

In 1974 a fellowship program was organized for active Senior citizens. This group is appropriately titled "Triple L's" (Live Longer and Love it).They meet monthly – on the third Tuesday – for a covered dish luncheon and fellowship, or various group outings. Before being named "Triple L's," they called themselves "Senior Citizens" and "After 60's."

All of the seniors are special, and their individual contributions to the building and nurture of WHBC are too numerous to recount in this writing. There have been a few that were recognized or earned distinctions in certain areas that we are mentioning below.

Herman Cater, a member since 1939, was our first sound technician. Beginning on February 5, 1978, the morning worship service began broadcasting on WXRC-FM. This continued until 1984. Herman was honored (at left, with Larry Isenhour presenting a plaque) in November 1994 upon his retirement of 40 years' service as audio-visual technician, and also for his many years as Assistant Sunday School Director. His wife, Nadine, was honored in September of 1985 for her 20 years in the Preschool Department.

James Clay and John Link were honored in October 1999 with the designation "Deacon Emeritus." Both have been active in all aspects of the church, serving as Sunday School teachers, committee chairpersons, as well as Deacon Chairmen.

Bertie Teague, (at right) who, along with her husband, June, joined WHBC in July 1937, and was one of the longest-standing members of the church until her death in June 2006. For sixty-nine years she was faithful in attendance and tithing. She served as a Sunday School teacher to children and adults, and was active in the WMU.

On May 21, 2006, WHBC drew up a resolution honoring George F. Hemphill (pictured at left), who died May 20, 2005. He was the son of Rev. Fritz D. and Mrs. Rose Hemphill. Since joining the church in 1947, George had served faithfully over fifty years, filling the position of deacon, chairman of various committees, and most notably, thirty-five years as a Sunday School teacher. His wife, Virginia Gabbard Hemphill, who grew up at WHBC, and other members of his family were present at the special recognition service.

Mamie Ogle has the distinction of being the oldest member at 93. The second eldest is Louise Smith. At age 92, she is faithful in attending church weekly.

Thelma Annas was our church Treasurer from 1981 to 2002. She had been a member of WHBC since August 1933, giving her the distinction of being a WHBC church member longer than any other person. On September 3, 2006, she was honored at a special ceremony for her fifty-five years as General Secretary of the Sunday School. Several of her family members – Tommy Hamby, his sons, Tim and Tony, and their sister, Tonya, spoke of their love for Thelma and presented her with roses and gifts. Lucille King, Sunday School Director, recalled some of the highlights of their service together. Del Starnes, Chairman of Deacons, gave her a love offering from Sunday School members , and Pastor Frady recognized her faithfulness and love for her church.

Miss Annas died June 2, 2007, after a long period of declining health.

Thelma Annas & Tennie Freeman - April 1951

Thelma & Barbara Williams - 2006

Thelma Annas Appreciation Day - Sept. 3, 2006
Tommy Hamby, Rev. Frady

Outing at Geitner Park - 1980's
Fr.(L-R) Willene Goans, Margaret Spencer, Doris Price, Lucille King; 2nd row: Nancy Hollar, Virginia Hemphill, Asa Gabbard, Virginia Carswell; back: John Link, James Bean, Danny Hildebran, Bob Carswell, Dean Woods, Dan Kirby

(L-R) Hilda Bogle, Lula Stallings, Bessie Riley, Asa & Nell Gabbard, Virginia Hemphill; back: Mary Huffman, Beulah Mae Detter, Leanna Terrell, ?, Willene Goans

Triple L's - Late 90's
Fr. (L-R) Jean Briscoe, Beulah Mae Detter, Willene Goans, Mary Huffman, Virginia Hemphill, Lula Stallings, Margaret Spencer, Hilda Cowsert, Marie Laughter; back: Dean Briscoe, Murel & Warren Canipe, Virginia Carswell, Nola Poulter, Thelma Annas, Doris Price, Bobbie & Keith Mull, Joni Rozzelle, Rev. Mike Staton, A. W. Morris

Christmas Party at the Catholic Center - 2006

(1st row, L-R) Virginia Hemphill, Nancy Frady, Doris Price, Joni Rozzelle, Irene Fox, Rob Kaylor, Pastor Scott Frady & Joy; (2nd row) Velma Buchanan, Beulah Mae Detter, A. W. Morris, John Link, Faye Bean, Cora Lee Sweeney, Pearl Coffey, Virginia Carswell, Marjorie Barkley, Myrtle Abernethy; (3rd row) Dick & Gail Adams, Geneva Ballenger, Ruth Morris, Jerry Moore, James Clay, Margaret Spencer, Juanita & Jack Bolick, Barbara Williams, Jerry Sipe, Carol Teague, Dot & Danny Hildebran; (4th row) Wiley & Jeanette McRary, Jean & Dean Briscoe, Anna Moore, Bobbie Mull, Betty Lail; (Back) Harold Lail, H. L. Frady, B. R. (Buck) Spencer, Keith Mull, Lloyd "Bud" Sipe, Doris Robinson, Marilynn & David Olson

MISSIONS and OUTREACH

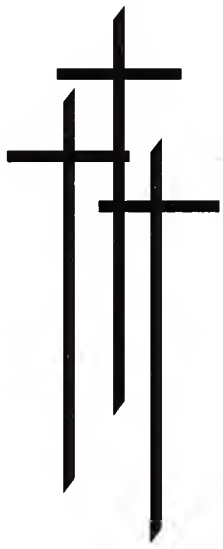
West Hickory Baptist Church continues to be very supportive of missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, Annie Armstrong offering, and local and state mission offerings. There has also been participation in many local projects to help those in need.

Throughout the past century many WHBC members, former members and staff have helped to build and spread the gospel outside the walls of the church. Some were helpful in creating new churches; others dedicated themselves to music and missions.

In 1932 Mr. Z. W. Brown, along with members of WHBC and other local Baptist churches, helped create a Sunday School mission in his business, Brown Brothers Hosiery Mill, located near Catawba Fairgrounds. This Sunday School mission became Brown Memorial Baptist Church and in 1953 became what is now Viewmont Baptist Church.

WHBC members who have entered into church-related vocations in the past 100 years include:

Rev. Tom Freeman
Dr. Larry Penley
Charles Brown
Helen Cater
Mildred Sigmon
Rev. John Sigmon
Dwight Robinson
Louis Robinson
Rev. Ralph Hefner, Jr.
Rev. Mike Williams
Rev. Robin Rowe
Rev. Ben Rowe
Rev. Rob Craig



West Hickory Baptist Church participated in the first mission trip Theron Rankin Baptist Association organized to go to Juneau, Alaska. This took place in September 2000, and WHBC emissaries who went were Rev. Mike Staton, Lee Jackson, and Carl Hollar. The purpose of the trip was to conduct a Sunday School Leadership Training Workshop and five revival services for the three churches in Juneau: Emmanuel Baptist, Glacier Valley Baptist, and Glacier Valley Church of God. It was a productive week – one of healing and spiritual renewal – not only for the residents of Juneau, but the mission team as well. (See picture below.)

Front (L-R) Lee Jackson (WHBC); Dave Church (Warlick's BC); Ted Hayes (Lakeview); Rev. Arthur Yount (Springs Road); Rev. Mike Staton (WHBC); Rev. David Gary (FBC-Newton); back: Rev. Greg Whitlock (FBC-Hickory); Carl Hollar (WHBC); Wade Stephens (Lakeview); Ozzy Cocareli (TRBA Coordinator, Int'l Missions); Rev. Mike Riley (EHBC); Rev. Gary Murry (Warlick's BC)

Other mission trips included one in July 2001 when two WHBC young people, Channing Sigmon and Kara Sumter, went to Jayaque, El Salvador. They joined a group from South Carolina on the week-long experience which involved construction of three buildings – very simple structures to be used for housing.

Channing Sigmon

Kara Sumter (L) and Channing

MUSIC PROGRAM

West Hickory Baptist Church has had a very active music program through the years. Members have offered their talents by participating in choral groups of all ages. Many have played various instruments in helping to add to the program – all backed by great sound technicians such as Herman Cater and presently, Butch Younce.

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ * CHORISTER

*W. G. Abernethy	1926
*C. O. Beach	1936
*Walter Sherrill	1945
*Polly Abernethy	1948
A.C. Campbell	1951
Hendley Ellington	1952 - 1953, 1955 - 1957, 1964 - 1970
Alex Hegenbart	1958 - 1960
Al Melnick	1961 - 1962
Jack Williams	1971
Rev. Edgar Lineberger	1972 - 1977
Ms. Joanne Fowler	1978 - 1985
Reggie Haire	1986 - 1989
Larry Isenhour	1989 - 1994
Dr. Martin Rice	1995
David Hutchins	1996 - 1999
Jim Baker	1999 - 2000
Jim Dellinger	2000 - present

PIANISTS/*ORGANISTS

Pearl Jones	1910's
Selma Hicks	1920's & 30's
*Mrs. Tom Boyd	1940's
*Mrs. Walter Cannon	1940's & 50's
Janette Shell Teague	1950's
Jimmy Wilson	1950's
Mrs. J. W. Joy	1954 - 1955
Juanita Bolick	1956
*Lois Young	1956 - 1957
*Cornelia Shell	1963 - 1965
*Faith Thomas Young	1966 - 1970
Susie Long	1968
*Becky Shell Woods	1954 - 1962, 1971 - 1972, 1978 - 1986
*Nancy Link Isenhour	1974, 197 5 - 1977, 1989 - 1994
*Robert Smith	1973
Susan Kirby Allen	1976, 1985 - 1986
Nancy Taylor	1995 - 1996
*Marie Laughter	1987 - 2000
*Elizabeth Dellinger	2001 - present

Other church members who have filled in for organist/pianist: Lana Greene, Sharon Sipe, Tammy Sipe

1999 Children's Choir

Fr. (L-R) Donna Staton, David Freeman, Miranda Robinson, Emily Kerr, ? , Nancy Franklin; 2nd: Melinda Kerr, Samantha Cansler, ? , Carrie Hemphill, Alyssa Starnes; back: Abbey Starnes, Leah Staton, Rebecca Kerr, Katherine Baker

Children's Choir - 2000

Fr. (L-R) Caroline Huffman, Cole Parlier, Sierra Jackson, Carson Freeman; back: Miranda Robinson, Abbey Parlier, Georgia Hemphill

March 31, 2007 - Easter Cantata led by Jim Dellinger

Fr. (L-R) Becky Lail, Linda Martin, Judy Burns, Barry Sparks, Wiley McRary, Carl Cline, Nancy Frady; 2nd: Nancy Hollar, Deborah Pugh, Linda Hayes, Sierra Jackson, Alice Brown, Cindy Frady, Scott Frady, Brian Dellinger, Nick Woods, Ron Hastings; 3rd: Bobbie Mull, Melinda Kerr, Jan Sumter, Connie Burton, Cynthia Amicone, Ethel Smith, Bob King, Todd Lambert, Keith Mull, Ken McGrady; back: Betty Huffman, Marie Huffman, Elizabeth Dellinger, Amy Freeman, Becky Estes, Nancy Isenhour, Lucille King, Gary "Red" Robinson, Del Starnes, Larry " Butch" Martin, Mark Thomas

Orchestra members: (L-R) Corky Waugh, Sally Ross, Phil Paul, Chris Whittington, Jim Young, Suzanne Williams

SPORTS PROGRAMS

West Hickory Baptist Church has had a long history of sports, especially in softball. Early records from 1947 reported the organization of a softball league with O.A. Buff and Arnold Pierce as leaders. In July of that year, the team manager, Brother Page, informed the Brotherhood that morale was high, even though the team had lost their first three games.

In 1951 the church team received a trophy in the western division. They set a new city record with twenty-three wins and one loss for the entire season.

In the mid 60's softball at WHBC was revived, beginning with fast pitch, and then slow pitch. They won approximately twenty-five championships in both categories. In 1981 the team went to the World Tournament in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where they placed 12th. Teams were coached by Harold Lail and Robert McGaha.

There was a women's softball team in 1976, but there is no further information on its history.

Beginning in the mid-70's and into the 90's, WHBC men's and women's volleyball teams were active in the Hickory church leagues. There weren't many trophies won, but they received their share of "sportsmanship" awards.

Robert McGaha

Softball Team - 1970's
Fr. (L-R) Chuck Huskins, Robin Rowe, Steve Lail, Bryan Lail, Scott Hildebran, Bruce Early, Robert McGaha; back: Bobby Setzer, Gary Lowdermilk, David Duncan, David Rowe, Harold Lail, Del Starnes

Pine Bluff, AK Tourney - Aug. 1981
Fr. (L-R) Steve Robinson, Robert McGaha, coach; 2nd: Hayden Robinson, Roger Martin, Chuck Huskins, Mike Bortz, Robin Rowe, Belvin Smart; back: Gary Lowdermilk, David Rowe, David Duncan, Bill Smith, Bobby Setzer

2007 Softball Team

Fr. (L-R) Rob Kaylor, Stacey Robinson, Beth Murphree, John Knuckles, Mark Stephens, Jason Reep, Nancy Frady; back: Brian Dellinger, Matt Cardwell, Aaron Smith, Terence Cansler, Tyler Stephens , Adam Huckabee, Del Starnes, Rev. Scott Frady; (not pictured: Josh Bumgarner)

The JAGO (Just Another Golf Outing) golf tournaments began around 1986, playing at the Pine Mountain course and then later at Mt. View Golf Course (Henry River) for a few years. The teams play the second Saturday of the month, March through October, at Hampton Heights Golf Course. In November a banquet is held to fellowship, acknowledge the accomplishments of each player, and give prizes.

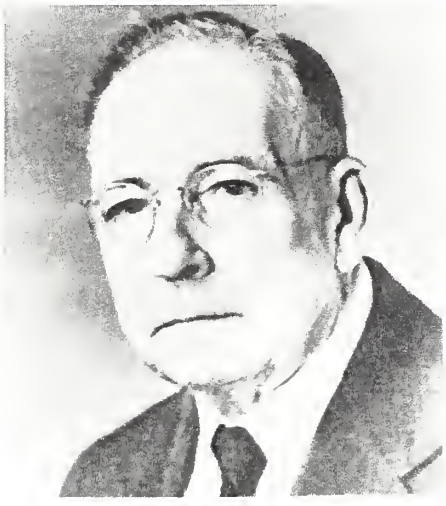
JAGO Golf Team

Fr. (L-R) Josh Starnes, Linda Hayes, Dickie Burton, Steve Lail; 2nd: H. L. & Nancy Frady, Paul Robinson, Jill Hastings, Joni Rozzelle; 3rd: Earl Hayes, Butch Martin, Mike Waters, Ron Hastings, Ken McGrady; back: Harold Lail, Del Starnes, Brian Rhoney

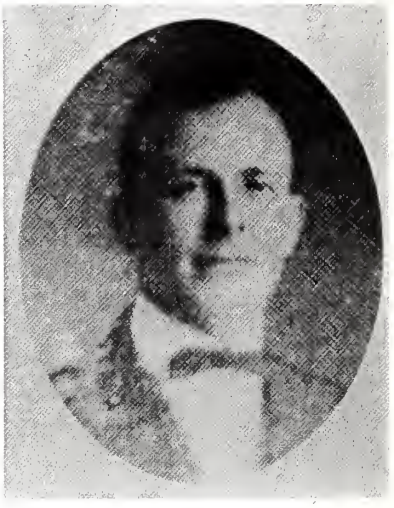
PASTORS

Charles M. Robinson
1907 - 1909

James M. Shaver, Jr.
1910

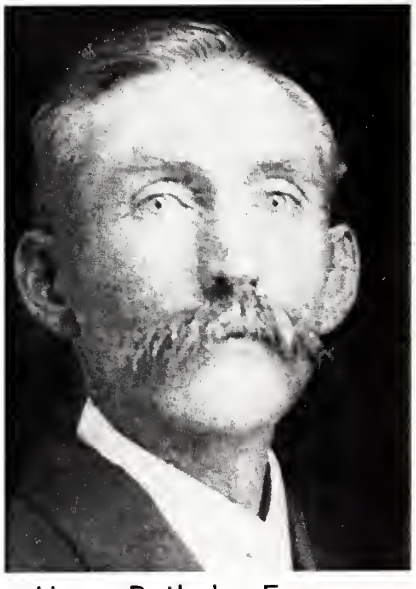


William N. Cook
1911-1915



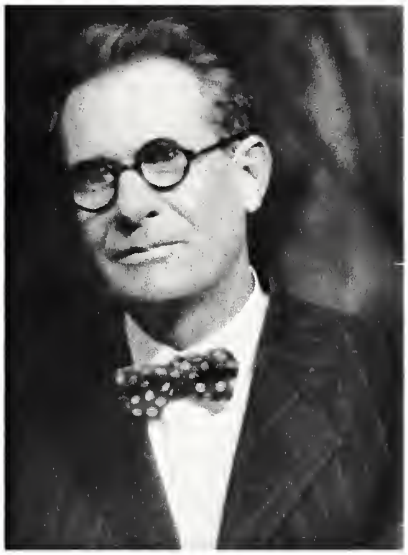
L. P. Smith
1916 - 1920

William L. Barrs
1920 - 1921



Henry Rutledge Freeman
1922 - 1923

R. G. Short
1927 - 1930



William W. Marr
1931 - 1939

R. C. Shearin
1940 - 1946

Fritz D. Hemphill
1947 - 1960

Frank H. Thomas
1960 - 1971

H. Phillip King
1972 - 1987

Wayne Varner
1988 - 1996

Michael Staton
1997 - 2003

2005 - present

E. B. Elmore
1999 - 2006

Associate Pastors

Robert G. Kaylor
2006 - present

CHURCH STAFF

DIR. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Irene Runnion	1946
Miss Sara Blanton	1953-1955
Miss Janice Edwards	1956
George B. Harris III	1963-1965
Ms. Charles Hatmaker	1968
Rev. Edgar Lineberger	1972-1977
Rev. Dale Watts	1980-1981
Reggie Haire	1986-1989
Ed Foskey	1993-1995
Katrina Salter	2001-2003

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Mrs. Charles Hatmaker	1968
Rev. Dale Watts	1980-1981
Ben Rowe	1982-1985
Reggie Haire	1986-1989
David Williams	1990-1991
Tony Hamby	1992-1993
Nancy Hollar	1992-1993
Carl Hollar	1992-1993
Ed Foskey	1994-1995
David Hutchins	1996-1999
Shannon Childers	2003-2004

Church Secretary

Kathryn Gabbard	1949
Helen Cater	1950's
Barbara Ball	1962
Bonnette Young	1962-1966
Lynn Cook	1966
Sheila Lail	1967-1976
Marie Deal	1976-1984
Ruth Sanford	1984-1987
Sharon Watson	1987-present

Custodian

James Feemster	1951
Aubrey Corry	1953
R. A. Wallace	1957
Herbert Hulon	1950's
Reynold Kight	1962-1966
Robert Corpening	1966- ?
Pat Rowe	1960's
Memphis P. Prescott	1970's
Jimmy Singleton	1978-present

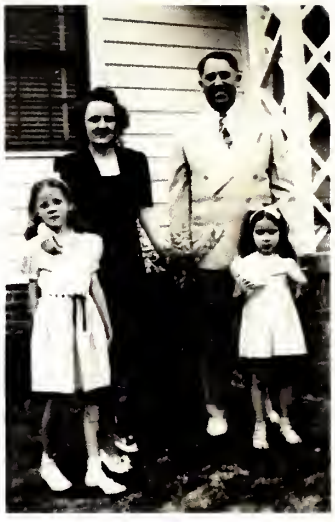
TREASURER

W. G. Hicks	1927-1928
C. H. Brittain	1929
M. R. Ingram	1931
W. S. Abernathy	1932-1934, 1936-1937
Thomas Shell	1935
W. A. Lutz	1938-1943
N. E. Caldwell	1944-1947
A. E. Gabbard	1948-1962
B. R. Spencer	1963-1965
Albert A. Gantt	1966-1969
Mrs. Ronald Lail	1970-1975
Dan Hildebran	1976-1980
Thelma Annas	1981-2001
Barbara Williams	2002 to present

Church Staff/Families

(as available)

Rev. & Mrs. W. W. Marr - 1931



Rev. & Mrs. Shearin and daughters - mid 1940's

Rev. Fritz D. Hemphill & Rose

Al Melnick and family
Minister of Music - early 1960's

Rev. Frank Thomas & Bernice - 1970

Rev. Phillip King, wife Jane, Chris & Allison - mid 80's

Rev. Wayne Varner & Violet - 1996

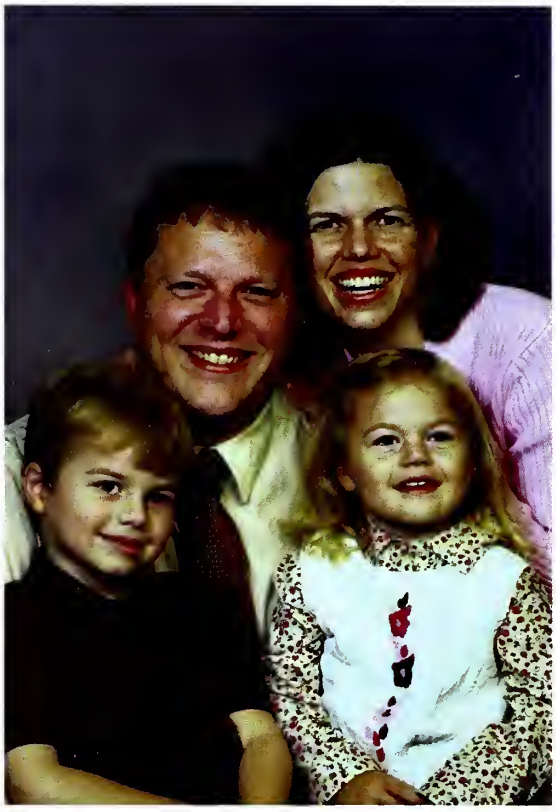
Rev. Blaine Gross - 1997

Reggie Haire - 1988

Christy & David Williams - 1997

Rev. and Mrs. E. B. Elmore
2001

Rev. Mike Staton, Steven, Donna & Leah
1997



Rev. Scott Frady and wife Cindy,
Jeremy and Joy
2006

Rob and Janna Kaylor
2007

Jim & Elizabeth Dellinger
2006

DEACON CHAIRMEN

Abernethy, W. G.	1921 (elected March 1921)
Annas, O. F.	1945, 1953
Abee, Wade	1954, 1955, 1961
Matheson, Boyd	1956, 1972
Martin, Virgil	1957
Truett, W. King	1958
Hollar, Lee J.	1959, 1968
Clay, James	1960, 1965, 1990-91
Link, John	1962, 1964, 1966
Sherrill, Walter	1963
Mull, Keith	1967, 1969, 1973, 1974
Adams, Dick	1970, 1980-81, 2005-06
Buff, O. A.	1971, 1979-80
Kirby, Dan	1975
Hemphill, Robert	*(Short term) - Oct. 1975 to June 1976
Hemphill, George	1976-77, 1985-86, 1989-90, 1996-97, 1997-98, 2000-01, 2001-02
Sigmon, Owen	1977-78, 1982-83, 1988-89
Price, James	1978-79, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1987-88, 1991-92
Lail, Harold	1981-82, 1986-87
Lail, Steve	1992-93, 1999-2000, 2004-05
Sigmon, Rick	1993-94
Rozzell, Talmadge (Tal)	1994-95
Kerr, Roger	1995-96, 1998-99, 2003-04
Estes, Doug	2002-03
Starnes, Del	2006-07

* 1975 - Deacon terms were changed to the period of July to June

CHURCH CLERK

F.S. Miller	1907-1910
M.L. Christopher	1911
James R. Pierce	1912-1924
W. A. Lutz	1925, 1927-1928
M. C. Lutz	1926
C. H. Brittain	1929
W. S. Abernathy	1930-1931
W. G. Abernethy	1932-1937
Miss Kathryn Abee	1938
W. P. Sherrill	1939-1943
Nellie Gabbard	1944
Miss Mary Gabbard	1945-1951
James A. Pierce	1952-1967
Mrs. Ronald C. Lail	1967-1976
Miss Judy Barkley	1976-1981
Alice Rowe	1982-1985
Evelyn Cosgrove	1986
Joanne Gantt	1987
Kathy Younce	1989 - present

LIBRARIAN

Mildred Cater	1940's
Charles Abernethy	1950
Ruth Spencer	1951
Jimmy Wilson	1956-1958
Nihla Truett	1959-1062
Alice Gantt	1963-1966
Beth Tallant	1967
Mr. Ronald Lail	1970
Alice Brown	1971-1981, 1991- 2005
Joni Rozzelle (co)	1980's to 2006
Ethel Smith	2006 - present

CHURCH OFFICERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Jev. Griffin	1907
C. O. Deal	1908, 1910, 1912-1913
D. B. Taylor	1911
Robert E. Perry	1914-1915
J. D. Green	1916-1918
W. G. Abernathy	1919, 1920,1923-1925, 1936-1937
R. A. Self	1922
C. H. Brittain	1926, 1927, 1933-1935
W. A. Lutz	1928-1932, 1938-1942
Walter Cannon	1943
Walter R. Sherrill	1944-1946, 1951-1956, 1964-1966
O. F. Annas	1947-1950
George F. Hemphill	1956-1963
Harold Lail	1967-1978
James M. Price	1979-1984
Marcella Buchanan	1985-1986
Lucille King	1987-1993, 2001-present
Sherry Foskey	1994
Steve Lail	1995-1996
Lee Jackson	1997-2000

BROTHERHOOD/BAPTIST MEN

T. C. Byers	1945
R. C. Shearin (Pastor)	1946
O. A. Buff	1947-1948
Walter Sherrill	1949-1950
J. Max Freeman	1954
James Clay	1955-1956, 1958-59
Ray Rowell	1962
Charles Grove, Sr.	1975-1976
Dick Adams	1977
Carl Hollar	1978, 1985-1986, 1996
Clarence Early	1979-1982
Larry Wittenberg	1985-1986
George Hemphill	1987, 1989, 1994-1995
Steve Lail	1996-2000
Rick Ward	2000-01
Jerry Townsend	2000-01
Butch Martin	2003-04
Wes Parlier	2003-04
Joey Franklin	2005 - present

B.Y.P.U./B.T.U. (TRAINING UNION) DIRECTOR

Mrs. W. G. Abernethy	1926
Mrs. Brittain	1927-1928
Mrs. W. L. Goodson	1930
Edd Canupp	1931
C. H. Brittain	1932
James Garrett	1934
Everett Propst	1935
Max Freeman	1936
Jeffie Marlow	1937
C.G. Riley	1938
William King Truett	1939-1942
Edgar Pierce	1943
Ms. Glenn Smith	1944-1946
T.R.Wells	1947
Earl Lutz	1948
Betty Jo Taylor	1949
George Hemphill	1950
Boyd Matheson	1951-1952, 1958
Lloyd Sipe	1962
Robert Huffman	1963-1965
Dewey Keller	1966-1968
Ms. Charles Hatmaker	1969
Elvin E. Cook	1971-1973
David Rowe	1978-1979
Melvin Rozzelle	1985-1986

WMU/WOM

Mrs. Robert Hahn	1930-1931
Mrs. W. L. Goodson	1932-1936
Mrs. C. P. Abernethy	1937, 1938
Mrs. Glenn Smith	1939-1940, 1947
Mrs. W. K. Cline	1941
Nova Deal	1942-1943
Nell Gabbard	1944-1946, 1948
Ruth Spencer	1949
Mrs. W. R. Sherrill	1950
Nihla Truett	1951-1952
Polly Coble	1953-1954, 1973-1977
Sue Buchanan	1955-1956, 1963-1965
Mrs. Thomas Atnip	1957-1958
Betty Dula	1959-1960
Doris Huffman	1962, 1971
Marcella Buchanan	1966
Arlene Kirby	1967-1968
Anita Rhoney	1978-1979
Alice Brown	1980-1984
Mrs. Jimmie Rhyne	1985-1986
Linda Hayes	1987, 2005-present
Virginia Hemphill	1989
Hilda Cowsert	1994-1999
Lynne Baker	2000-2001
Nancy Franklin	2003-2005
Connie Burton	2005-2006

CHARTER MEMBER HISTORY

The charter members of West Hickory Baptist Church:

Mrs. Ruey Burns	E. R. Burns	A. D. Isenhour
Mrs. A. V. Isenhour	Miss Pearl Jones	Wiley Jones
Mrs. L. C. Jones	Miss Claudia Jones	A. G. Maynard
Mrs. M. J. Maynard	J. M. Maynard	Mrs. Sadie Maynard
Mrs. L. C. Maynard	Mrs. Minnie McKenzie	Mrs. J. C. Miller
T. S. Miller	Mrs. M. A. Pierce	Mrs. Etta Raby
Mrs. M. A. Triplett		

Wiley Jones was born in Union County, NC, in 1863. He and his two brothers, John and Sampson Jones, moved to Catawba and Caldwell Counties. Wiley married Miss Louise Sherrill, who was born in Caldwell County in 1872. Wiley and Louise Jones had six children:

Pearl Jones Barkley ~ b. 1890 - d. Aug. 28, 1938
Claudia E. Jones Carswell ~ b. June 19, 1892 - d. 1955
Oscar M. Jones ~ b. Feb. 3, 1895 - d. Sept. 31, 1966
Mamie Jones Keller ~ b. July 16, 1898 - d. July 13, 1976
Thelma Jones Goodson ~ - d. Sept. 8, 1996
Olie Jones Harris ~ birth date unknown - d. Dec. 4, 1983

For most of their married life, Wiley and Louise Jones lived in West Hickory. Their home was located at the corner of 13th Street and Highway 70 SW. They later moved into a home located across from Westview Methodist Church.

Wiley and Louise Jones' eldest daughter, Pearl Jones, also a charter member of West Hickory Baptist Church, was the first church pianist. She married William Thomas Barkley and together they had seven children:

Ernest Barkley ~ deceased
Mary Catherine Barkley ~ deceased
ThomasTroy Barkley ~ d. April 6, 2005
Ruth Barkley Smyre ~ lives near Nashville, Tennessee
(She is still a member of WHBC)
Ned Barkley ~ lives in eastern Burke County
Dewel Barkley ~ lives near Nashville, Tennessee
Donald Barkley ~ a WHBC member until his death in 1998.

There have been six generations of the Wiley Jones' family at WHBC, and three generations continue to be active members of West Hickory Baptist Church:

1. Wiley and Louise Jones
2. Pearl Jones Barkley
3. Donald Barkley ~ m. Marjorie Reed
4. Linda Barkley ~ m. Larry "Butch" Martin
5. Sharon Crump
   Alicia Crump ~ m. Adam Huckabee
6. Lydia Huckabee
   Savannah Huckabee

Wiley and Louis Jones' second daughter, Claudia Jones, who at 15 years old was a charter member of WHBC, later married Pink Carswell.

Children:

1. Wanda Carswell Harris ~ lives in Hamlet, NC
   Children:
   1. Karen Harris Kirk
      Children:
      1. Lindsey Kirk
      2. Ben Kirk
2. Robert G. Carswell ~ a member of West Hickory Baptist Church until his death in 2004. His wife, Virginia Singleton Carswell, is an active member of WHBC.
   Children:
   1. Robert G. Carswell, Jr.
      Children:
      1. Brandi Carswell Lynch
      2. Sherri Carswell Turner
      3. Jennifer Carswell Dunet
   2. Suzanne Carswell

Pearl Jones Barkley
(First church pianist)

Claudia Jones Carswell

Etta Raby, charter member, was known as "Granny Raby." She worked at the Ivey Weavers mill in West Hickory. Mrs. Raby raised her three children alone after her husband passed away. She also went into homes and helped with the sick during the flu epidemic in 1916. She was a hard-working, loving mother to her children and grandchildren. Through the years she was an inspiration to many people at WHBC. She was always cheerful in spite of her infirmities and was a blessing to any who visited with her.

Mary Etta Raby - Born October 1, 1882 Died May 21, 1965

Married to John Raby b. September 19, 1882 d. December 8, 1910

Children:

1. Vera Gertrude b. July 19, 1906 d. July 21, 1971

October 4, 1923 - Married to T. S. Anderson b. June 24, 1901 d. Jan. 18, 1968

Children:

1. Mildred Anderson Carpenter
2. Johnsie Anderson Bean
3. Wilma Anderson Rash
4. Geraldine Anderson Drum
5. Homer Thomas Anderson (deceased)

2. Johnsie Keota b. July 16, 1908 d. January 9, 1981

September 24, 1923 - m. Marvin E. Bumgarner b. October 7, 1900
d. April 3, 1975

Children:

1. Ora Lee Bumgarner Milligan
2. Doris Bumgarner Shull
3. Gene Bumgarner
4. Marvin Lewis Bumgarner (deceased)
5. Carroll Ray Bumgarner - Carolyn Bumgarner (deceased)
6. Johnny Bumgarner
7. Tom Bumgarner
8. Betty Ann Bumgarner Asherbraner

3. Homer Raby - b. September 12, 1919 d. December 29, 1976

April 5, 1942 m. Margie Piercy

Children:

1. Troy Raby
2. Roy Raby
3. Jim Raby
4. Elizabeth Raby Collins

MILITARY LISTING

Lynne Baker
U. S. Air Force
1987 - 1997
Gulf War

James Bean
U. S. Navy
1944 -1947
1951-1952

Ralph Bolick
U. S. Navy
1945-1946
WWII- S. Pacific

Charles Brown
U. S. Navy
Korea

Edgar Brown
U. S. Army
1944 - 1945
WWII - Europe

Horace Brown
U. S. Army
WWII - POW

Joe Brown
U. S. Navy
Korea

John C. Brown
U. S. Navy
1943 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Dean Briscoe
U. S. Army
1953 - 1955
Stateside

Lentford Brittain
U. S. Navy
WWII

J. D. Brittain
U. S. Army
1944 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Carl Buchanan
U. S. Air Force
1942 - 1946
Stateside

Paul A. Buchanan
U. S. Air Force
1943 - 1945
WWII - Europe

Warren Canipe
U. S. Army
WWII

Bill Carrier
U. S. Army
1956 - 1958
Korea

Robert (Bob) Carswell
U. S. Army
1944 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Herman Cater
U. S. Marine Corps
1944 - 1946
WWII - Pacific

James E. Clay
U. S. Army
1943 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Paul Coffey
U. S. Navy
1944 - 1946
WWII - Pacific

J. C. Compton
U. S. Army
WWII

Allen Costner
U. S. Army
1969 - 1991
Vietnam

Glenn Craig
U. S. Navy
WWII - Pacific

H. L. Frady
U. S. Air Force
1957 - 1961
Stateside

John Max Freeman
U. S. Army; Air Force
1942 - 1945; 1950-1953
WWII- Stateside
Korea

Robert Gaston
U. S. Army
1942 - 1947
WWII - Europe

Robert B. Goble
U. S. Army
1944 - 1946
WWII - S. Pacific

Tommy Hamby
U. S. Army
1954 - 1956
Germany

Robert B. Hamilton
U. S. Army
1943 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Billy Earl Hayes
U. S. Army
1963 - 1965
Korea

Chad Hayes
U. S. Army
1989 - present
Persian Gulf War
Iraq

Ralph Hefner, Sr.
U. S. Army
WWII

Daniel E. Hildebran
U. S. Navy
1950 - 1954
Korea

Bill Hollar, Jr.
U. S. Army
Korea

Alfred Carl Hollar
1965 - 1971
U. S. Army
N.C. Nat'l Guard

Charles Lee Hollar
U. S. Army
1963 - 1965
Stateside

Theadore Ray Hollar
U. S. Army
1952 - 1955
Stateside

Wm. Franklin Hollar
NC Nat'l Guard Calvary
1923 - 1926

Adam Huckabee
U. S. Army
1996 - 2004
Afghanistan
Iraq

Clarence Huffman
U. S. Navy
1947 - 1951
Korea

Robert Huffman
U. S. Navy
1943 - 1945
WWII-China

Roy Huffman
U. S. Navy
1948 - 1952
Korea

U. S. Huffman
U. S. Army
WWI - Europe

MILITARY LISTING

Tennie Freeman Jones
U. S. Army
1943 - 1945
Stateside

Turner Jones
U. S. Army
1942 - 1943

Frank Keener
U. S. Navy
Merchant Marines
WWII

Wayne L. Kight
U. S. Navy
1973 - 1979
Europe, S. America

Harold Lail
U. S. Navy - Seabees
1943 - 1945
WWII - Pacific

Terry Leggins
U. S. Army
1966 - 1968
Vietnam

Darryl Ward Linder
U. S. Marine Corps
2001 - 2005
Afghanistan
U. S. Army
2006
KIA - Iraq, June 2007

Andrew John Link
U. S. Marine Corps
1934 - 1938
1941 - 1946
WWII - Pacific

Roger Reid Link
U. S. Navy
1966 - 1970
Vietnam

Howard Lynch
U. S. Marine Corps
1943 - 1946
U. S. Army
1950 - 1953
Stateside

Bertie Sue Martin
U. S. Army
WWII

Larry (Butch) Martin
U. S. Navy
1968 - 1994
Stateside

Robert E. McGaha
U. S. Army
1953 - 1956
Korea

Wiley McRary
U. S. Army
1958 - 1960
Korea

Wm. H. (Bill) Morris
U. S. Army
1971 - 1974
Germany

Jerry Keith Mull
U. S. Army
1951 - 1953
Europe

David Olson
U. S. Air Force
1964 - 1971
U. S. Pub. Health Serv.
1986 - 2000

Grover Perkins
U. S. Army
WWII - Korea

James A. (Pete) Pierce
U. S. Coast Guard
WWII

Bob Prestwood
U. S. Air Force
1955 -1 959
Stateside

Dean Reed
U. S. Army
1961 - 1963
Stateside

Colin Reese
U. S. Army
WWII

William (Bill) Reid
U. S. Army
1946 - 1953
Austria

Robert E. Rhoney
U. S. Navy
1950 - 1954
Korea

Carroll W. Rhyne
U. S. Navy
1948 -
Stateside

Edgar Eugene Rhyne
U. S. Marine Corps
1941 - 1945

Ted (Bill) Rhyne
Merchant Marines
WWII
U. S. Navy
1948 - 1951
Korea
U. S. Air Force
1952 - 1973
Vietnam

Alvin Riley
U. S. Army - WWII

Hayden A. Robinson
U. S. Navy
1945 - 1948
WWII - Pacific

Matthew E. Robinson
U. S. Air Force
1990 - 1997

Paul A. Robinson
U. S. Navy
1952 - 1953
Germany

James (Eddie) Rozzelle
U. S. Navy
1942 - 1946
WWII - USS Iowa

Melvin (Choppy) Rozzelle
U. S. Air Force
1949/50 - 1969/70
Europe/Asia

Richard (Tal) Rozzelle
U. S. Navy
1942 - 1946
WWII - Europe, Pacific

Tommy Rozzelle
U. S. Marine Corps
1967 - 1988
Vietnam

Ray H. Shepherd
U. S. Navy
1942 - 1945
WWII - Europe, Pacific

Ruth H. Shepherd
U. S. Navy
1944 - 1946
WWII - Stateside

Dewey Owen Sigmon
U. S. Army
1943
WWII

Richard Sigmon
U. S. Army
1966 - 1968
Germany

MILITARY LISTING

Lloyd (Bud) Sipe, Jr.
U. S. Navy
1946 - 1948

Donald (Don) Smith
U. S. Marine Corps
1951 - 1971
Korea, Vietnam

B. R. (Buck) Spencer
U. S. Navy
1945 - 1946
WWII - Pacific

Odis O. Spencer
U. S. Army
1944-1945
WWII - KIA, France

Carl Stallings
U. S. Army
WWII

Tyler Starnes
U. S. Navy
2003 - present

Robert Teague
U. S. Army
1944 - 1946
WWII - Europe

Lawrence Tetterton
U. S. Army
1968 - 1971
Vietnam

Rev. Frank H. Thomas
U. S. Army
WWII

Tony Truett
U. S. Army
1966 - 1969
Vietnam

William King Truett
U. S. Navy
WWII- Pacific Islands

Robert (Chip) Tunstall
U. S. Navy - Nat'l Guard
1992 - present

Vance David Ward
U. S. Air Force
1970 - 1974
Stateside

Vance L. Ward
U. S. Army
1943 - 1945
WWII - Europe

James Carroll Ward
U. S. Army
1968 - 1970
Stateside

Dean Woods
U. S. Army
1953 - 1955
Cold War

Howard G. Woody
U. S. Army
WWII - Europe

We apologize for any omissions. They are unintentional and due to a lack of information.

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